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ABSTRACT

This lexicon is based on vocabulary used in "An ka bamanankan kalan: Introductory Bambara," and "An ka bamanankan kalan: Intermediate Bambara." The definitions serve basically as reminders of expressions used in the lessons, and the lexicon is not intended to represent a complete inventory of Bambara vocabulary. The alphabetical order follows standard English usage with exceptions made for features of Bambara not found in English, such as tones and prenasalized consonants. (CLK)

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Bambara-English
English-Bambara

Student Lexicon

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BAMBARA-ENGLISH, ENGLISH-BAMBARA STUDENT LEXICON

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BAMBARA-ENGLISH, ENGLISH-BAMBARA STUDENT LEXICON

This lexicon is based on vocabulary used in An ka bamanankan kalan: Introductory Bambara, and An ka bamanankan kalan: Intermediate Bambara. It is not intended to represent an extensive, basic, or in any way complete inventory of Bambara words. The definitions given serve likewise more as reminders to the expressions used in the lessons than as definitions covering the meaning of these terms.

The alphabetical order follows standard English usage with the following exceptions:

1. Vowels without grave accents within a series will precede those with accents; e.g.,

   e comes before è

2. High tones within a series will precede low tones; e.g.,

   e comes before e̲

3. 1 and 2 combined produce the following order:

   e, e̲, è, è̲

4. Prenasalized consonants are alphabetized directly with the letter n̲; e.g.,

   na precedes nb which precedes nd which precedes ne

5. n̲y and ŋ are considered separate nasal consonants and are alphabetized in the order given.

Bambara-English Student Lexicon

A

a	n.	he, she it
Abubakar	n.	male first name
Abudu	n.	male first name
Adama	n.	male first name
alamisa (don)	n.	Thursday
Alanseri	n.	Algeria
Ali	n.	male first name
alijana	n.	heaven
Alima	n.	female first name
alimami	n.	imam, prayer leader
alimèti ('Fr.)	n.	match
Amadu	n.	male first name
Amat (Mahamat)	n.	male first name
ambasadi ('Fr.)	n.	embassy
Ami (Aminata)	n.	female first name
Amidu	n.	male first name
an	n.	we
anglopu ('Fr.)	n.	envelope
araba (don)	n.	Wednesday
artizana ('Fr.)	n.	"artisanat": artisans' center
Asan	n.	male first name
Asitan (Asetu)	n.	female first name
atayi	n.	tea
aw	n.	you (plural)
Awa (hawa)	n.	female first name
awirili-kalo	n.	April-month, usually does not occur without kalo

B

ba	n.	mother/no definite article/
Ba (Bâ)	n.	family name
ba	n.	goat
ba n'a si		plenty of (the goat and its hair)
baana	n.	rich person
baara	n. and v.	work
baaranyini (baara-nyini)	n.	main-oeuvre; laborer (work-look-for)
baasi	n.	evil, bad trouble
Baba	n.	male first name
baba	n.	affectionate term for father, also nickname given to someone bearing his grandfather's name
baga	v.	offend
Bagayògò (Bagayoko)	n.	family name

bagi	n.	cloth
bagi_tigè	v.	buy cloth
U ye bagi caman tigè.		They bought a lot of cloth.
Bakari	n.	male first name
bala	n.	xylophone
bala-fò	n.	xylophone playing
bala	v.	surprise
bala	n.	porcupine
balan	n.	pliers
bali	v.	forbid, prevent
balima	n.	kin of same generation
balimakè	n.	brother
balimamuso	n.	sister
balo	n.	food
balo	v.t.	nourish
balo	v.i.	live, exist
Ala kà Bari balo.		May God grant Bari (a long) life.
balolen	adj.	be living
Balo (Ballo)	n.	family name
bamanankan (bamana-kan)	n.	Bambara Language (Bambara-sound)
bamu	v.	carry (child) on back
bamunan-fini	n.	cloth wrap to carry baby on back
ban	v.	finish, end, (by ext.) die
A banna?		Is it finished?
A tun ye baara_ban.		She had finished the work.
ban	n.	kind of palm tree
ban-ji	n.	palm wine
ban	v.	refuse
bana	v.	get sick
A banana.		He got sick.
bananku	n.	manioc
banbugu (ban-bugu)	n.	south (palm-town)
banfula	n.	head-cover
banki (‘Fr.)	n.	bank
bara	n.	navel
barada	n.	teapot
barama	n.	praise
Bari (Barry)	n.	family name
bari	v.	cover with mud or cement
barigon (‘Fr.)	n.	barrel
barika	n.	strength, benediction, divine grace
baro	n.	conversation, casual talk, chatting
Baru (Umaru)	n.	male first name
basi	n.	couscous
basisira (basi-sira)	n.	leftover couscous from night before
bato (‘Fr.)	n.	boat
bato	n.	worship
bawo	conj.	because
belebele	adj. mod.	big, large, fat, great

bèn v.	meet, agree
labèn v.	prepare
bèn ... ma v.	agree with, be convenient for ...
bènkè n.	maternal uncle (mother's brother)
bere n.	stick
bese n.	machete
bi n. and adv.	today
bila v. (var. bla)	leave ..., put down ..., let go of
n' tè se k'i bila sira.	I can't accompany you (put you on the road).
a bila!	Leave it! (Put it down!)
bila ... la v.	to put off, be put off; to be left to; to be postponed or abandoned until; to assign X to Y
n ka taali bilala juma nata la.	My trip is put off to next Friday.
bila ... nya v.	put (something) before (something else)
dabila (da-bila) v.	quit ...; cease ...
labila v.	let go, allow, permit
bilakoro n.	non-circumcized child
bilakoroya n.	childhood
bilen adj.	red, bright
bilenman; bilen adj. mod.	red, bright
bilen v.	to get red, redden
a da bilenna.	His mouth got red.
woro ye n'da bilen.	The kola made my mouth red.
bin n.	grass
binyè n.	liver
biro (‘Fr.) n.	office
biro n.	initiation hut
biye (‘Fr.) n.	bill, note
biyè n.	vagina
bo n.	excrement
boda (bo-da) n.	anus (excrement-mouth)
bògò n.	dirt, mud
boli n.	fetish, idol
boli v.	run, ride, drive, flee
a bè boli.	He runs (away).
a bè so boli.	He rides horses.
a bolila.	She ran.
bolo n.	arm, hand
bolonkòni (bolo-nkòni) n.	finger
bololankolon	empty-handed
bolo-la-ntolatan n.	basketball
boloko v.	circumcize
bon n.	bedroom, hut, room
bonbon n.	chin
bonbonsi (bonbon-si) n.	beard (chin-hair)
bon v.	throw

bon	adj.	big, large, great, fat
belebele	adj. mod.	
bonya	n.	respect
bonya	v.	get big, increase, show respect for
bòn	v.	spill
bonya	v.	get big, increase, show respect for
a ka denkaya bonyana.		Her family increased (grew).
a bè mögò bèe bonya.		He respects everyone.
an y'an ka so labonya.		We enlarged our house.
fabonya	n.	gift to a parent or relative at wedding time
bò	v.	leave, go out, come from, come out
bò ... la	v.	take out or off of, remove from
foyi tè bò a la.		Nothing will be taken off of it.
n' bè wari dò bò.		I'll take out some money.
a bè kèmè dòròn de bò a sòngò la.		He will reduce the price by 500 fr.
a bè dò bò a la.		He will lower it some.
n' ye bòrè tan bò foro la.		He got ten sacks out of the field.
hakilili bò ... kò	v.	forget
bònbòn	(‹Fr.) n.	candy
bòrò/borè	n.	sack, bag
bòsi	v.	take away from
boso	n.	Bozo, fishermen, ethnic group
bu	n.	boneless flesh
Buba	n.	male first name
bugò	v.	beat
buguri	n.	dust
bugurinjè	n.	ashes
buluku	v.	plow, turn over soil
Burama	n.	male first name
buran	n.	in-law
buruju	n.	lineage
buruju-gosi	n.	lineage praising
buyaki	n.	guava

C

ca	adj.	many, numerous
caman	adj. mod.	
caya	v.	
caman	adj. mod.	many, numerous
camancè	n.	middle
capalo	n.	wine
caya	n.	abundance (muchness)
caya (ca-ya)	v.	to grow in number, increase, become plentiful
mobili cayara Bamakò.		Cars have increased in Bamako.
a ye ji lacaya daga kònò.		She increased the water in the jar.
cè	p.	between
mobili bè jirisun ni kògò cè.		The car is between the tree and the wall.
camancè	n.	middle

cè n. man, husband/no definite article when meaning husband/
cè ganan n. bachelor
cèya n. manhood
cèn n. heritage
cènyè n. beauty
cènyi adj. mod.
X cè ka nyi adj.
cènyi adj. mod. pretty, beautiful
cènyè n.
X cè ka nyi adj.
cèya n. manhood
ci n. message, commission, farmwork
cikèla n. farmer (farmwork-do-er)
ci-den n. messenger
ci v. send
cogo n. manner, way, style
a bè cogo di? What is she like?
cogo di? How? In what manner?

D

da n. mouth, door
dakala n. jaw (mouth-handle)
dawolo n. lips (mouth-skin)
dafuruku n. cheek
dabila v. quit; cease
da-lajè v. gather (together), assemble
da-tugu v. shut, close, imprison
dakènyè v. level
da bò nyò la (lit. take the mouth away from millet)
Exp. die

da n. price

da v. create, weave

da v. lie down, go to bed, lay down
a b'i da. He lies down.
a bè fini da dugu ma. She lay the cloth out on the ground.
daba n. hoe
dabakisè (daba-kisè) n. hoe blade (hoe-core)
dabanikurunni n. small hand hoe with short handle
daba n. large door
dabila v. quit; cease (from ... bila - put down)
n' ye baara dabila. I quit work.
dade v. shut up
dafuruku n. cheek
daga n. pot, pottery, vase
dahirimè adj. living

daji n. saliva (mouth-water)
dakala n. jaw (mouth-handle)
dakènyè n. level
da-lajè v. gather (together), assemble, meet
(nyògòn) da-lajè
mògò caman ye nyògòn dalajè kènèma. Lots of people assemble outside.
dàlilu n. secret force, secret knowledge, power, special means

dan v. count
dan n. limit, boundary
dan-kun n. border, outskirts, crossroads, limit, boundary

danmatèmèn v. (var. dan tèmè) exaggerate, exceed the limit, pass the limits

dan v. plant, sow
danni n. planting
Danba (Damba) n. family name
dan-fèn n. living thing (create-thing)
dan-matèmèn v. to exceed the limit
a bè baro kè fo k'a dan-matèmèn. He chats too much.
Dante (Danté) n. family name
daraka n. breakfast, morning meal
da-tugu v. shut, close, inprison
dawolo n. lips (mouth-skin)
dèbèn n. mat
dege v. learn, teach
ladege v. imitate
dègè n. a drink, often made with a base of flour and milk, a porridge

deli v. beg
deli v. get used to, to have the experience of
n delila k'a kè. I have done that.
a bè deli k'a kè. He has the habit of doing that.
den n. child
den-batigi n. mother with children
denbaya n. family (child-motherness)
denkè n. son(child-male)
den-misenya n. childhood
denmuso n. daughter (child-female)
denmusoròròba n. eldest daughter
dèrè emphasis particle
n' bè na dèrè. I really am coming.
desanburu-kalo n. December
dèsè n. calf
di adj. good, agreeable, tasty, pleasurable, easy
duman adj. mod.
diya v.
di int. adv. how?
di v. shave
a y'a bonbonsi di. He shaved (his beard).

diina n.	faith, character, religion
(car. diinè)	
dila v.	make, create, prepare, repair
dimi ... kòrò v.	be angry at (someone)
dinge n.	hole (in ground)
(var. dinga)	
dinyè n.	world
(var. duniya, duna, diyèn, jen)	
disi n.	chest
diya (di+ya) n.	goodness, pleasantness
duman adj. mod.	
diya v.	please, make good, happy
diyabò v.	enjoy (pleasure-out)
diya-n-ye-mògò	loved one
diya v.	please
a diyara ne ye.	It pleased me.
diyabò v.	enjoy
i na seli diya-bò.	You will enjoy the festival.
dò n., quan.	one, certain, someone, some, something
dogo v.	hide
dògò n.	market, weekly fair, weekly market
dògòkun n.	week
dògò n.	younger sibling, younger member of same generation
dògòkè n.	younger brother
dògòmuso n.	younger sister
dògò-ci n.	wood-chopping
dògò-siri n.	measure of firewood
dògò-da v.	set a date for (lit. set up market)
dògòkun n.	week
dògòkun nata	next week
dògòkun tèmènnen	last week
dògòn adj.	little, small, young
dògòman; fitini; ni adj. mod.	
dògòya v.	
dògòya v.	get small, reduce in size, quantity, belittle, insult
a ka wari dògòyara.	His money became less.
Fanta ye Umu dògòya.	Fanta insulted Umu.
dòlè, dòra n.	reel, spool
dolen n.	hook
dolo n.	star
dòlò n.	beer, alcoholic beverage
dòlòso (dolo-so) n.	bar (beer-house)
don n.	day
don dòw	some days
don ka sigi v.	predict (set the day)
don o don (dongodon)	every day
don wèrè	another day, some other day

dɔn	v.	wear
a ye dulɔkiba dɔn.		He wore a boubou.
dulɔkiba bɛ̀ dɔn seli-don.		The boubou is worn on festival day.
dɔn	v.	enter, come/go in, insert, (by ext.)
		bury (a body)
dɔ̀n	v.	know
a bɛ̀ donsoya dɔ̀n.		He knows hunting.
dɔ̀n	n.	dancing
dɔ̀n ke	v.	dance
donda	n.	entry, entrance
doni	n.	load
dɔ̀nkili/dɔ̀ngili	n.	song
dɔ̀nkili da	v.	sing (song-create)
donso	n.	hunter
donsoba	n.	chief hunter
donso-ladege	n.	so-called hunter
donsoya	n.	hunting
dɔ̀oni	quan.	a little, slightly
dorobara	n.	testicles
dɔ̀rɔ̀mɛ̀ (kelen)	n.	five francs
dɔ̀rɔ̀n	adv.	only
du	n.	concession, compound, home
dukènè	n.	court, courtyard, compound-clearing
dutigi	n.	head of family, head of household
dugu	n.	town, city, land
duguba	n.	big city
dugu-kolo	n.	land
dugu-kolo-tigi	n.	owner of the land
dugusèjè	n.	dawn
dugutigi	n.	village chief
duman	adj. mod.	good, agreeable, tasty, pleasurable,
di	adj.	easy
diya	v.	
dumunifɛ̀nw (dumuni-fen-w)	n.	foods (eating-things)
dun	v.	eat
n'tɛ̀ to dun.		I don't eat to.
dun	adj.	deep
Dunbuya (Doumbia)	n.	family name
duniya	n.	world
duniya to		Exp: die (lit. leave the world)
dunun	n.	drum
dunun-fɔ̀	n.	drumming
durusi	v.	memorize
dusukun	n.	heart
dute (‘Fr.)	n.	tea
dutigi	n.	head of family, head of household
duuru	num.	five
duurunan	adj.	fifth

E

egilizi (‹Fr.) n. church
esansi (‹Fr.) n. gasoline

F

fa v. fill, get full, be full
n' b'a fa ji la. I'll fill it with water.
a tè fa. It doesn't fill. (or) It isn't fillable.
n' fara tewu! I'm completely full.
fa n. father/no definite article/ (see below)
fabonya n. father's older brother
fa kòròba n.
faa n. pot
faaba n. big pot
faamu/faamuya v. understand
n' y'a faamu. I understand it.
n' y'a faamuya. I understand it.
fabonya n. gift to a parent or relative at wedding time
faga v. kill, slaughter
Bèe ye saga faga. Everyone slaughtered a sheep.
fajiri n. prayer at dawn, dawn, daybreak
fale n. home-spun thread
falen v. grow (up), germinate
falen v. change (as with money), exchange
I bè se ka nin falen? Can you change this
fali n. donkey
falitigi n. owner of donkeys; donkey seller; donkey rider (donkey-man)
fama v. be absent a long time
fama n. a long absence
fan n. forge
fan-da n. forge-mouth
fan n. side, direction
fan bèe all sides, all over
Fanè (Fané) n. family name
fanga n. strength, power, authority
Fanta (Fatumata) n. female first name
fara v. turn off, to branch off, rip off, tear, divide, turn
o kò, i bè fara i numan fè. After that, you turn to the left.
fara (...kan) v. add (on to ...)
dò far'a kan? Add some on to it?
dòròmè fila bè far'a kan. Ten francs will be added on to it.
fari n. body
farigan (fari-gan) n. fever (body-heat)
farikolo (fari-kolo) n. the body (body-bone)

farin adj. — ardent, strong, audacious, fierce, bold
farinman; farin adj. mod. — ferocity, boldness
farinya n.
fasa n. — praise song
fasa n. — nerve
fasa v. — become skinny
fatu v. — die
Fayi (Faye) n. — family name
fè p.
a bè kofè. — He is in back. (He is out back).
a bè so kofè. — He is in back of the house (behind the house)
a bè nyèfè. — She is in front (out front)
u bè Musa nyèfè. — They are in front of Moussa.
awiyòn bè sanfè. — The plane is in the sky (up nigh).
kònòni bè so sanfè. — The bird is above the house (on top of the house)
Ali bè kèrèfè. — Ali is nearby (out at the side).
Fanta bè Musa kèrèfè. — Fanta is next to Musa (beside Musa).
mobili bè Kante fè. — Kante has a car (with Kante).
Ali bè wari fè. — Ali wants/likes money.
Ali taara Fanta fè. — Ali went to Fanta's.
feere ... (ma) v. — sell (...to)
a b'a feere kè! — Of course he'll sell it.
n' b'a feere aw ma. — I'll sell it to you.
tamati bè feere yan. — Tomatoes are sold here.
feere n. — selling
musow bè feere kè. — Women are selling.
fèn n. — thing
fèn wèrè — another thing, something else
fèrèbò n. — cloth, clothing
fewuruye-kalo n. — February (seldom used without kalo)
fila n. — Fulani
fila num. — two
filanan adj. — second
filan n. — peer
filen n. — calabash, gourd
fili v. — make a mistake, be mistaken, err
a tè fili tuguni. — He won't be mistaken again.
fin adj. — black, dark, obscure
finman adj.mod.
fin v. — get black, dark; dye (indigo)
fin v.
san finna. — The sky darkened.
muso ye fini fin. — The woman dyed the cloth.
finè n. — particular caste in Mande culture
(var. funè) — They are functionally ill-defined in comparison to blacksmiths and bards.
finfin n. — charcoal
finikisè n. — fonio
fini n. — cloth
finikònò n. — strip of cloth
fini ta n. — dress (manner)
(var. fini don)

finyè adj. light
  finyèman adj. mod.
  finyèya v.
finyèya (finyè-ya) v. to get light (weight)
  a doni_ finyèyara. His load lightened.
  i ka n' doni finyèya! You should lighten my load!
fisa adj. better
fisaya (fisa) v. be better, do better, prefer, improve
  e fisayara ne ye. You did better than I.
  a b'a muso fòlò fisaya n'a muso filanan_ye. He prefers his first wife over his second.
fitini adj. mod. little, small, young
fitiri n. prayer at dusk, dusk, sunset
fiye n. bile
fiyè v. blow
fiyèn n. light
  fiyènya n. ease
fo conj. (takes subjunctive) until, to, up to, except
fò v. say, speak, tell
fò ... kò v. miss ... (someone), find (someone) gone, come in (someone's) absence
  n' fòra i kò kunun. I missed you yesterday.
fobonda n period of the year in September-October
fogonfogon n. lung
fòlò first, at first, long ago, formerly
fòlò v. start out, begin by/with
  a bè fòlò ka dumuni_kè. He begins with eating.
fonènè n. cold season
foro n. field
  foro bò v. clear a field
fòrò n. penis
foroko n. leather bag
foron n. sheath, scabbard
foronto n. hot pepper
foyi (in negative sentence) n. nothing
fugari n. worthless person
fula n. Fula, Fulani people
fulakan (fula-kan) n. Fula language
funteni n. heat
fura n. medicine, leaf
  fura bò v. make medicine for
  mògò-tanga-fura n. reputation medicine
furan v. sweep
furu n. marriage
furu v. marry (a woman)
  furu n. marriage
  furu-boloma n. marriage broker
  furu-siri n. modern, religious marriage
furufuru n. breakfast cake, pancake
furuja n. mourning time
furunafolo n. dowry
futa n. Region of Mali, Senegal, Guinea

G

ga n. stand built in shade for men to sit on
ga n. kitchen, hearth
gabugu n. kitchen (hearth-hut)
gaari n. string, thread
galaka n. side
galama n. ladle, large spoon
gale adj. first
galo-dugu n. big city
gan n. okra
gan (var. gwan/gòni) adj. hot
gan adj. mod.
gan v.
gan ... la v. to heat, be difficult, be hard for
a taali_bè gan ne na. Her leaving will be hard for me.
garabali n. sheep selling place
garanke n. cobbler, leather worker
garibu n. Koranic student; beggar
garibuya n. begging
gasi n. consideration
gèlèn adj. hard, difficult, expensive
gèlènman/gèlèn adj. mod.
gèleya v.
a ka gèlèn. It's hard, expensive, difficult.
a da_ka gèlèn. Its price is expensive.
a man gèlen. It is not hard, expensive, difficult.
gèlèya (gèlèn-ya) v. become hard, expensive, difficult
a songo gèleyara. The price became expensive.
jula_ye bagi sòngo gèlèya. The Dyula raised the price of cloth.
gèn v. chase, expel
gènènkala n. shin
gèrè v. approach, get close to
geren adj. green, fresh, unripe
gese n. cotton thread
gese_da v. weave (thread-create)
a tè se ka gese_da. He can't weave.
gesedala n. weaver (thread-create-er)
gintan n. ceremony
girin adj. heavy
girinman/girin adj. mod.
girinya v.
girinya v. get heavy, become heavy
a muso_girinyara. His wife got heavy.
dumuni_ye ne (la)girinya. Eating made me heavy.
gita-fò n. calabash playing during wedding celebration
go adj. bad tasting, stupid, ugly, worthless
goman/go adj. mod. bad (of food)
goya v.

goman/go adj. mod. — bad (of food)
gòngòrò n. — pebble, clod of dirt
(var. gongonron)
goni adj. — hot
goniman/gonin adj. mod.
goniya v.
goniya (gonin) v. — get hot
ji goniyara. — The water got hot.
muso bè ji goniya don o don. — The woman heats water every day.
gudoron (‹Fr.) n. — paved road
gundo n. — secret
gundo mara — keep a secret
gungurun n. — stump

H

hakè n. — sum, amount, number of
hake n. — sin, guilt
hakè to! — Excuse me!
hakè-to n. — forgiveness, mercy
hakè-to b'a la. — We ask your mercy.
hakili n. — mind, spirit, thought
hakili bò ... kò — forget
halaki v. — destroy
hali — even
halibi — up to now
hami v. — worry
hèrè n. — good luck, happiness, peace
hinè — pity
hòròn n. — noble, non-casted person

I

i — you (sing.)
Isa n. — male first name
Isiaka n. — male first name

J

ja n. — shadow, image, soul
ja wuli v. — (lit. move the spirit) to upset
ja v. — dry, dry up

jaabi (laminè) v. — answer
a ma ne jaabi fòlò. — He hasn't answered me yet.
jabi n. — answer
jaba n. — onion
Jabate (Diabaté) n. — family name
jabi n. — henna tree, the leaves of which are used as makeup by women on their hands and feet

jabibi n. — pineapple
jago n. — marketing, trading, commerce
u bè jago kè duguba kònò. — They market in big towns.
jago v. and n. — market, trade (in)
u bè ba jago. — They market goats.
jago-ke-kan n. — trade language
Jakite (Diakité) n. — family name
jala n. — Senegalese mahogany tree (cashew)
jalaki n. — mistake, error, fault
Jalo (Diallo) n. — family name
jama n. — crowd
jamanjan (var. jan) adj. mod. — long, tall, far, high
jan adj.
janya v.
jamu n. — last or family name
Jamusa n. — male first name
jan adj. — tall, long, far, high
jamanjan/jan adj. mod.
janya v.
janya v. — lengthen, get tall, get long
i y'an ka sira lajanya. — You lengthened our way.
Musa janyana. — Moussa grew tall.
Jara (Diarra) n. — family name
jatigi-muso n. — hostess
jato n. — immoral person
Jawara (Diawara) n. — family name
jè adj. — white, clear, light, clean
jèman/jè adj. mod.
jè, jèya v.
jè v. — collect, gather
jègè n. — fish
jele n. — axe
jelekise n. — axe blade
jeli n. — bard, griot
jelikè n. — male bard
jelimuso n. — female bard
jèman adj. mod. — white, clear, light
jè adj.
jè, jèya
jenbe n. — a kind of drum
jenbe-fò n. — entertainment with drum
Jènèba n. — female first name
Jenfa n. — male first name
jeni — burn
jènsèn v. (var. jènjèn) — spread, spread out, distribute, broadcast, announce

jèya v. — get white, whiten, clean, purify
so konona jèra sisan. — The house is clean now.
a y'i jèya n' ye. — He was honest with me.
a y'a ka mobili ko k'a jèya. — He cleaned his car.

ji n.	water
ji-ta n.	water-carrying
Jibirilu n.	male first name
jigin v.	lower, descend
lajigin v.	lower, cause to descend
jigin v.	give birth to
jiginè n.	granary
jigiya n.	hope
jira ... la v.	show (something) to (someone)
n' b'a fè ka n ka so jir'i la.	I want to show you my house.
n' bè sira jir'i la.	I'll show you the road.
jiri n.	tree, wood
jiriden n.	fruit
jo n.	right
I jo b'a la.	You are right.
I jo don.	
jò v.	stop, stand up, erect, build (as house)
mobili tè jò yan.	The car doesn't stop here.
a t'i jò fo fitiri.	He doesn't stop until dusk.
a bè so jò.	He builds houses.
dògò bè jò alamisa o alamisa.	The fair (market) is held every Thursday.
I jò!	Stop!
lajò v.	cause to stop
jò-yòrò n.	place to stand, standing-room, (ext.) role
joli n.	wound, cut
joli-fura n.	medicine for cuts
jòliba/jaliba n.	Niger River
joli n.	blood
jolisira n.	vein (blood-path)
joli n.	How much?
joli joli	How much each (a piece)?
jònmaya n.	offense
joona adv.	early, quickly
jòn n.	slave
jugu adj.	mean, nasty, vicious
jugu/juguman adj. mod.	
juguya v.	
juguni n.	hedgehog
juguya v.	get mean, get worse
wulu juguyara.	The dog got mean.
i kana wulu lajuguya!	Don't make the dog worse! (i.e. provoke, tease)
ju n.	base, bottom, source
jukunan n.	bottom, buttocks
jula	merchant, trader
juma (don) n.	Friday
jumèn int.	which?
mobili jumen bè santiri la?	Which car is at the center?

K

kaari n. — spit
  kaari_tu v. — to spit
ka kòrò adv. — in the past, of old
kaba n. — corn
kabini conj. — from, since
  kabini sisan — from now on, hereafter
kaburu n. — grave
  kaburu-don n. — cemetery
kafe n. — coffee
Kaja (Kajatu) n. — female first name
kala v. — sew
  kalali n. — sewing
  kalali-yòrò n. — tailor's, sewing place
kala n. — handle
  jelekala — axehandle
  murukala — knifehandle
kalan v. — study, learn, read
  kalan n. — study, learning, reading
  kalanden n. — student
  kalanso n. — classroom
kalandiriye n. — calendar
kalaya (kalan) v. — to get hot
  ji_kalayara. — The water got hot.
  a bè ka ji kalaya. — He is heating water.
  kalan adj. — hot (restricted to liquids)
  kalan/kalanman adj. mod.
kali v. — swear, make an oath
kalifa (...la) v. — care for, consign (to ...), entrust
  a bè misiw kalifa ne na — He put the cows in my care.
  kalifa mina — (exp.) die (lit. seize that which was entrusted)

Kalilu n. — male first name
kalo n. — month
  kalo nata, kalo kura n. — next month
  kalo in na n. — this month
  kalo o kalo n. — every month
  kalo tɛmɛnnen n. — last month
kaman n. — area of shoulder, shoulder, wing
  kamankòròla n. — armpit (shoulder-underneath)
  kamankun n. — shoulder (shoulder-head)
Kamara (Camara) n. — family name
Kamisògò (Kamissoko) n. — family name
kamisoli (‘Fr.) n. — blouse
kan n. — neck, throat, upper extremities, voice, language, sound
  kan-to v. — retort, answer back
kan adj. — same, equal
  kanyaman adj. mod.
  kanya v.

kan adj.
n' ka kan ka taa so.
n' man kan ka to yan.
kan p.
lakèrè bè tabali kan.
a dògòmuso bè dèbèn kan.
kan v.
Kante (Kantè) n.
kan-to v.
a y'i kan-to ko Fanta tè na.

kanu n.
kanubaganci n.
Kanute (Kanoute) n.
kanyaga n.
kanyaman adj. mod.
kan adj. mod.
karamògò (karan-mògò) n.
kare n.
kari v.
kari n.
karikari n.
kari (don), dimasi (don) n.
Kariba n.
karisa n.
kasa n.
kasanke n.
kaso, kasobon (kaso-bon) n.
Kati n.
kè v.

kilomètri kelen kè
don fila kè
san fila kè
kegun adj.
kegunman/kegun adj. mod.
kèlè n.
kèlè v.
kèlèbolo n.
kelen num.
kelennama adj.
kènè adj.
kènèman adj. mod.
kènèya v.
kènè n.
kènèbòdafè n.
keninge n.
kèrè n.
kèsu (‘Fr.) n.
kèwale n.
Keyita (Keita) n.
kibaruya or kibaru n.

obliged to, to have to
I must go home.
I must not stay here.
on
There is chalk on the table.
Her little sister is on the mat.
cut (grass), scythe
family name
retort, answer back
He answered you back that Fanta isn't coming.
love, desire, adoration
fan, admirer
family name
south
same, equal

teacher (study-person)
block
break
last price, final price
very last price
Sunday
male first name
such person, somebody
woolen cloth
funeral cloth
prison (jail-house)
city in Mali
to do, make, spend, happen, occur, transpire
do (to go) 1 kilometer
do (to spend) 2 days
do (to spend) 2 years
clever

fight, battle, struggle, war
fight, make war
battalion (war-arm)
one
by oneself
well, healthy

open space
dawn, daybreak
millet, white millet
side
cash box
deed, action
family name
news, information

kilibara n. testicles (egg-gourd)
kin n. quarter, area of city
kini n. prepared rice
kininama n. rice with sauce (rice-saucy)
kinin n. right, righthand
kininbolo right hand
kininfè to the right
kiriyon (<Fr.) n. pencil
kisè adj. brave, courageous
kisè adj. mod.
kisè n. seed, grain, nucleus
marafa-kisè n. bullet
ko v. (irregular) say
n ko i ka to yan. I said you should stay.
i ko mun? What did you say? Pardon?
i ko di? What did you say? Pardon?
ko v. to wash, bathe
an b'an ko. We bathe.
an bè Musa ko. We wash Musa.
ko v. fall (of night)

Ko is a verb which occurs only intransitively and for which su "night" is the only possible subject

su kolen night fallen
su kora night has fallen
fo ka su ko (fo su ka ko) until nightfall
kò n. back
kòkolo n. spine (back-bone)
kò p. after, beyond, in addition to
a/o ko after it/that, beyond it/that, addition to it/that

kofo v. tell about
X kofò Y ye v. tell Y about X
kogo n. wall
kògò n. chest
kògò v. ripen, age, mature, grow up
kògò n. salt
kojugun adv. too, too much
kòkolo n. spine (back-bone)
koli v. fail
kolo n. bone
kòkolo n. backbone
kunkolo n. head, skull
kolon adj. incapable, worthless
kolón adj. mod.
kòlòsi v. look after ..., look out for, to watch out for

a bè misiw kòlòsi kosèbè. He looks after cattle closely.
a b'i kòlosi musow la. He watches out for women.
a ye kòlòsili kè sira la. He observed (carefully) along the road

kɔ̀ma n.	Bambara initiation society
var: kɔ̀mo	
kɔ̀ma-tigi	Chief of kɔ̀ma
Konare (Konaré) n.	family name
Konate (Konaté) n.	family name
Kɔ̀nè (Koné) n.	family name
kɔ̀ngɔ̀ n.	hunger
koni	no matter what
ne koni be taa.	No matter what, I'm going.
kɔ̀nɔ̀ p.	in, inside
a b'a kɔ̀nɔ̀.	It's inside it.
a muso_bè so_kɔ̀nɔ̀.	His wife is in the house.
kɔ̀nɔ̀-gan v.	be puzzled, bewildered
kɔ̀nɔ̀ n.	stomach
kɔ̀nɔ̀ ta	(take belly) become pregnant
kɔ̀nɔ̀ma	pregnant
kɔ̀nɔ̀ v.	wait
makɔ̀nɔ̀ v.	wait for
kɔ̀nɔ̀, kɔ̀nɔ̀ni n.	bird
konɔ̀ntɔ̀n num.	nine
kɔ̀nɔ̀ntɔ̀nnan	ninth
kɔ̀nyɔ̀ n.	marriage
koori n.	circle
koori v.	surround
kɔ̀ori n.	cotton
kɔ̀ori-foroni n.	little cotton farm
kɔ̀ra n.	21 string harp-lute
kori	yes-no question marker
kori i bè taa?	Are you going?
kɔ̀rɔ̀ p.	under, near, underneath
a bè tabali kɔ̀rɔ̀.	It's under the table.
Musa bè jukɔ̀rɔ̀.	Moussa is down below (underneath).
kɔ̀rɔ̀ n.	significance (perhaps related to "underneath")
kɔ̀rɔ̀ fɔ̀	explanation, speak of meaning
kɔ̀rɔ̀-fɔ̀ n.	conversation, speech
kɔ̀rɔ̀-ta v.	raise, raise up, life
kɔ̀rɔ̀-shiyèn v.	lit. under-scratch, to hoe, weed
kɔ̀rɔ̀ matigè v.	criticize
kɔrɔ̀ n.	elder of same generation, older brother or sister, cousin
kɔ̀rɔ̀kè n.	older brother
kɔrɔ̀muso n.	older sister
kɔ̀rɔ̀ adj.	old, ancient
kɔ̀rɔ̀ adj. mod.	
kɔ̀rɔ̀ v.	
kɔ̀rɔ̀bɔ̀rɔ̀kan n.	sonrai language
kɔ̀rɔ̀n n.	east
X kɔ̀rɔ̀n-yan-fan	to east of X
koroninfin n.	tree with sweet black fruit (Vitex Cuneata)
Korotumu n.	female first name
kosèbè adv.	very

kòskòs — idiophone for dryness
  A jara kòskòs. — It got very dry.
kòsòn n. and p. — reason, cause
  A taara o kòsòn. — He left because of that.
Koyita (Koita) n. — family name
kube n. — government building
kulan n. — anvil
kulo v. — scream, yell, cry out
Kuluba n. — hill on outskirts of Bamako, Mali, housing government offices

kuma n. — speech, speaking
  kuma v. — speak
  kuma-sasela v. — interpret
kumun adj. — sour
  kumun adj. mod.
kun n. — head, upper extremities
  kun da v. — do, have one's hair done
  kuncè n. — skull
  kun-dí v. — shave the head
  kungolo n. — head
  kunko n. — problem, affair
  kunsèmè n. — brain
  kunsigi n. — hair (head-hair)
    kunsigi jè n. — gray or white hair
  kuntigi n. — boss, director (head-chief)
kunan adj. — bitter
  kunanman/kunan adj. mod.
kunasini n. — day before yesterday
  kunasini kò n. — 3 or more days ago
kunba adj. — fat, big, imposing
kunbèrè n. — knee
kungo n. — the bush, the woods
kùntaa — length of time
  a fanga kuntaa — length of time of his power
kunun n. — yesterday
kunun v. — wake up, get up in the morning
  n' kununna — I woke up,
  Ali bè n' kunun. — Ali awakens me.
kura adj. — new
  kura adj. mod.
kurana n. — koran
kurun n. — canoe, train (means of transportation)
kurun n. — stool
Kuyate (Kouyate) n. — family name

L

la (na after m, n, etc.) — at, in
  a bè lakoli_la. — He is at school.
  a bè kasobon_na. — He is at the prison.
  a bè Mali la. — She is in Mali.

laada n. custom, tradition
laansara n. late afternoon
labèn v. to prepare (oneself)
an k'an labèn Let's prepare ourselves.
u y'u labèn. They prepared themselves.
labila v. let go, allow, permit
labò v. find (a place, discover)
ladege v. imitate
ladiya v. make good, happy
a y'a den la diya. He made his child happy.
ladon (la plus don) v. make ... enter, let ... in (from don- to enter)

i ka ne ladon siniman na! You should get me into the movie!
lafinyè v. repose, to rest
n' bè n'lafinyè. I rest (myself).
a b'a sègèn lafinyè. He rests his tiredness.
lagare n. last born child
lajanya v. lengthen
y'an kasira lajanya. You lengthened our way.
lajè n. watch
lajigin v. lower, cause to descend
lakali v. to tell
lakèrè n. chalk
lakòli (‹Fr.) n. school
Lala n. female first name
lajò v. cause to stop
lamaga v. whip
lamèn v. to listen to
n' bè i lamèn. I'm listening to you.
(n' tulo b'i la) (I'm listening to you.)
lamini n. surrounding area, suburbs
lamò v. to bring up, to raise
jon y'i lamò? Who brought you up?
lankolon adj. empty, naked, worthless
lanya v. improve
a y'a ka so lanya. He improved his house. (He had his house improved.)

lasa v. keep in memory
lasali v. lead in prayer
latunun v. cause to be lost, stop
layidu n. promise
lenburu n. citrus fruits
lenburuba n. orange (big citrus)
lenburuji n. lemonade (lemon-water)
lenburukumun n. lemon (sour citrus)
lèrè (‹Fr.) n. hour, time
lètèrè n. letter
Li (Ly) n. family name
liburu n. book

M

ma p. — to, on, at (dative)
n' ye wari di a ma. — I gave her the money.
i den bè duguma. — Your child is on the ground.
Musa bè kènèma. — Musa is outside.
maabò n. — casted Fulani person
maana n. — epic, history, detailed literary explanation, narrative
mafilè v. — look at
magan adj. — soft, loose
maganman/magan adj. mod.
magèn v. — go to (a place), flock to
u bè sugu magèn. — They will attend the market.
Maka n. — Mecca
Makalu (Macalou) n. — family name
mako n. — need (essence-thing)
makònò v. — to wait for ...
n' tun b'i makònò yen. — I was waiting for you there.
makun n. — shut up, keep quiet
malo n. — rice
malo v. — shame
maloya n. — shame
Mama (Maramu) n. — female first name
Mamadu (Madu, Seyba) n. — male first name
maminè v. — become engaged to a woman
mana n. — rubber
mana-dunun n. — drum with rubber head
manamana-kan n. — casual talk, worthless talk
mangoro n. — mango
mankan n. — noise
manyò n. — corn
manyòmagan-muso n. — bride's maid
mara v. — to keep, rule, control, master
marafa/marifa — gun, rifle
marafa-kisè n. — bullet
marafadilala n. — gunsmith (gun-repair-er)
marato (‘Fr.) n. — hammer
Mariko n. — family name
marisikalo n. — March
masa n. — king
masaw n. — relatives
masina n. — region of Mali
masiri v. — make up
masiri n. — decorations, ornaments
matigè v. — cut down
kòrò matigè v. — criticize
Mawuluti n. — celebration of Mohamed's birthday
mèkalo n. — May
mèn v. — last a long time, be a long time, stay/pass a long time
a mènna — It's been a long time.
a tuma ma mèn. — It hasn't been a long time; recently

mèri (‘Fr.) n. courthouse
midi (‘Fr.) n. noon
midi fè at noon
miiri v. think
min v. drink, smoke, eat a liquid food like porridge
n' tè sigarati min. I don't smoke (cigarettes).
minfènw n. drinks (drink-thing-s)
minnògò n. thirst (drink-need)
minan n. utensils, household articles, tools, dishware
minè v. catch, grab, take, seize
minè o ma v. to hold against
minnògò n. thirst
misèn adj. small, thin
misenman/misèn adj. mod.
misi n. cow, beef
misi-ba n. cow with calf
misigènna n. cattle headsman (cow-chase-er)
misiri n. mosque
mò n. person of alternate generation, grandparent, grandchild, always used in compound with kè, muso, den
mòkè n. grandfather
mòmuso n. grandmother
mòden n. grandchild
mò v. ripen
mògò (mògòw) n. person (people)
mògò dò someone (a certain person)
mògò si no one
mògò-tanga-fura n. reputation medicine
mòni n. a porridge, usually of millet
mori n. holyman
moriya n. activity of a holyman
moto n. mobylette, motor bike
mun int. n. what
munyu v. support
Musa n. male first name
musaka n. expenses, cost
muso (i muso) n. wife, woman (your wife)/no definite article meaning wife/
musòrò n. scarf

N

n' I
short form of ne
emphatic form nne
na n. sauce

na v.	come
a bè na yan tuma bèe.	He comes here all the time.
na bɔ̀ ... ye v.	come visit
u nana bɔ̀ ne ye.	They came to visit me.
na ni X ye v.	come with X, to bring X
na ni wari ye!	Bring the money!
na-tuma n.	arrival time, coming time
rali n.	coming, arriving, arrival
naani num.	four
naaninan	fourth
nafalo n.	wealth
furunafalo n.	dowry
nafigi n.	tell-tale, troublemaker
nafigiya v.	tell-tales
nagasi v.	destroy, fall in misery
nakan n.	destiny
nakɔ̀ n.	garden
naloma adj.	stupid, ignorant
naloma n.	stupid fellow
namasa n.	banana
namasatigi n.	bananaseller (banana-owner)
nanaye, nana n.	mint
nare n.	butter
nasi n.	magic potion
nba	male response to greeting
nburu n.	bread
nege n.	desire
nègè n.	iron
nègè-fin n.	iron ore
nègèso n.	bicycle
nègèn v.	fool, cajole, flatter
nèn n.	tongue
neni n.	curse
nènè n.	cold
Ngolo n.	male first name
ngɔ̀n n.	baboon
ngɔ̀nɔ̀ n.	throat
ni n.	soul, spirit
ni-sòngò n.	(soul-price) tax, head-tax
ni-yòrò v.	share
ni diminutive suffix	little, small, young
musoni n.	little woman
denni n.	small child
ni sub. conj.	if, when
ni conj.	and (noun conjunction)
long form: ani	
ni v.	grant, offer
nili-fèn n.	offering, gift
nimisa v.	regret
nimògò n.	younger in-laws
nin dem. or pro	this
ninw dem. or pro	these
nisòdiya, nisòndiya n.	joy, contentment

nisɔ̀n n.	humor, mood
nka conj.	but
nkalon v.	lie
(var. ngalon, wuya, kalon)	
nkɔ̀ni n.	stringed instrument (generic)
nkɔ̀yɔ̀ n.	bitter tomato
nogo n.	intestines
nɔ̀gɔ̀n adj.	easy, cheap
nɔ̀gɔ̀nman/nɔ̀gɔ̀n adj. mod.	
nɔ̀gɔ̀ya v.	
nɔ̀gɔ̀ya v.	get easier, get better
a nɔ̀gɔ̀yara.	He got better (well).
nɔ̀gɔ̀n adj.	
nɔ̀nkɔ̀nkuru n.	elbow (elbow-protuberance)
nɔ̀nɔ̀ n.	milk
nɔni/nɔ̀oni v.	mix
nɔ̀rɔ̀ v.	glue, stick
a bɛ̀ wolo nɔ̀rɔ̀.	He glues the leather.
nowanburu kalo n.	November
npogotigi n.	young girl
nse	female response to greeting
ntamani n.	talking drum
ntamani-fɔ̀ v.	playing the talking drum
ntamaro n.	date (fruit)
ntɛ̀nɛ̀n (don) n.	Monday
ntɛ̀nɛ̀n o ntɛ̀nɛ̀n	every Monday
ntɛ̀nɛ̀n (don) nata n.	next Monday (any day)
ntɛ̀nɛ̀n (don) tɛ̀mɛ̀nnen n.	last Monday (or any day)
ntola n.	soccer, ball
ntola-tan n.	(kick-ball) soccer, football
ntola-tan-yɔ̀rɔ̀ n.	soccer field
sen-na-ntola-tan n.	football, soccer
ntomi n.	tamarin
ntomiji n.	tamarin juice (tamarin-water)
ntori n.	frog
ntugun n.	mound, hill
ntumu n.	worm
ntura n.	bull
numan n.	left
numanbolo n.	left hand
numanfe n.	to the left
numu n.	blacksmith
numuya n.	blacksmithing
nun n.	nose
nzamɛ̀ n.	Senegalese rice dish (riz au gras)

Ny

nya-na-muso n. — preferred woman
nyagin, nyangi v. — sentence, punish
nyama n. — power, energy for action
  nyama-fura n. — power medicine
nyamakala n. — casted person
Nyarè (Niaré) n. — family name
nyè n. — eye, face, front, fore, forward
  nyèda n. — face (front-mouth)
  nyèkansi n. — eyebrow (eye-on-hair)
  nyèkòròsi n. — eyelash (eye-under-hair)
  nyè-mògò n. — (front-person) leader
  nyè-mògòya n. — leadership
nyè (nyi-ya) v. — become good, pretty
  kalan bè ka nyè sisan — Studying is getting better now.
  nyè ... ma (nyi ... ya) v. — come to the aid of ...
    i tè se ka nye n' ma? — Can't you help me?
nyèfò ... ye v. — to explain something (to someone)
  karamògò bè ko nyèfò an ye. — The teacher explains the affair to us.
nyègèn n. — urinal, W.C.
nyègènèbara n. — bladder (urine-gourd)
Nyele n. — female first name
nyènajè n. — amusement, recreation
nyèyènkini n. — millet dish
nyè-sin v. — concentrate
nyi adj. — good, nice, perfect
  nyuman adj. mod.
  nyè v.
nyigin v. — wet, soak
nyimi v. — chew
nyinan n. — this year
nyin n. — teeth
nyin-susu v. — blacken someone's gums (for cosmetic purposes)
nyini v. — find out, ask of, want
  I bè mun nyini Baba fè? — What do you want from Baba?
nyò n. — millet
nyògòn n. — each other, together
  an ye nyògòn ye. — We saw each other.
  u ye nyògòn sòrò. — They found each other.
  nyògòn-ye n. — meeting
  X ni nyògòn cè — between X, amongst X
nyuman adj. mod. — good, nice, perfect
  nyi adj.
  nyè v.

ŋ

ŋaniya n. — desire, envy
  kèlè ŋaniya — envy of war
ŋanyan n. — bush
ŋòmi n. — fritter

O

o dem. or pro — that
olu plural
ɔkutoburu kalo n. — October
olu dem. or pro
o singular
ɔrɔbu (ʿFr.) n. — dress
ɔwɔ — yes

P

pakati n. — box, small carton
pake (ʿFr.) n. — small box, package
pan v. — jump, fly
parata v. — spin
pèrèn v. — yell, scream
pewu — idiophone accentuating finish
polosi (ʿFr.) n. — policeman, policewoman
var. polisi
poti (ʿFr.) — cut (a market measure), pot

R

Rokiya (Rokiyatu) n. — female first name

S

sa n. — snake
sa-kin-fura n. — snake bite medicine
sa v. — die
saya n. — death
saafo n. — late evening, night
saba num. — three
sabanan — third
sababu n. and v. — cause, reason
var. saabu, sabu
sabara n. — sandal
sabali, sabati, sabari v. — calm down, be patient, settle down, have patience, reinforce
sabati v. — reinforce, uphold, add to
Safi (Safiatu) n. — female first name
safine n. — soap
saga n. — sheep
sagasogo n. — meat of sheep, mutton
saheli n. — north, Sahel region
X saheli-yan-fan — the north of X
Sajo n. — female first name
Sakiliba (Sakiliba) n. — family name
sale-dinga n. — grave
Salifu n. — male first name
salon n. — last year
salonnasini n. — year before last

sama v.	bring back a gift for
Samaseku (Samassekou) n.	family name
samiyè, samiya n.	rainy season
san n.	sky, high, top, heavens
san-fin n.	cloud
san-ji n.	rain
san-kilo-borè n.	100 kg. bag
san v.	buy
n' b'a san.	I'll buy it.
san n.	year
san fila o san fila	every two years
san o san	every year
san wèrè n.	next year
Sanba n.	male first name
sanga n.	death
sanga lagosi v.	spread the news of the death
sange n.	mosquito net
sani adj.	cl[illegible]
Sankare (Sangare) n.	fami[illegible]
santiri (‹Fr.)	(trainin[illegible]enter
sara n.	pile, measure, bunch
saraka n.	alm
saraka bò v.	make a sacrifice
saribilenni n.	small ox-drawn plow (lit. little red plow)
sariya n.	law
saya n.	death
se v.	arrive, reach, be able (to do), be capable of
n' bè se lakoli la lèrè 8 na.	I arrive at school at 8 o'clock.
Mamadu bè se fèn caman na.	Mamadou is capable of many things.
Fanta tè se ka taa dugu kònò.	Fanta can't go to town.
se X la v.	to beat somebody
se mògò dò la	to beat somebody
n' bè se i la.	I can beat you.
sèbèn v.	write
sèbènfura n.	sheet of paper
sèbènni n.	writing
sèbèn n.	gris-gris, amulet, talisman, charm containing Arabic writing
Sedu n. (var: Seyidu, Sayidu)	male first name
sègèn n.	tiredness, poverty
sègènbagatò n.	poor one
sègèsègè v.	investigate, analyse, examine
segi n.	basket (a market measure), basket
segin num.	eight
seginnan	eighth
segin	return, come back, go back (ext. die)
n' bè segin so.	I return home.
n' bè wari segin.	I return the money.
segin X kan	repeat, do again

Seku n. male first name
seli v. pray
seli n. prayer, festival
seli-saga n. sheep for a festival
seli X kan v. pray over X
lasali v. lead in prayer
selifana n. early afternoon meal
sen leg, foot
a taara a sen na. He went on foot.
senkòni n. toe
senkuru n. ankle
sennamògòw n. pedestrians, those who walk (foot-on-persons)
sen-na-ntola-tan n. football, soccer
sen ni bolo n. exp. child, offspring (lit. leg and arm)
sentègè n. foot
sen v. dig
sènè n. farmwork, growing
a bè sènè kè don o don. He does farmwork every day.
sènè v. cultivate, farm, grow
a bè nyò sènè samiya tuma na. He grows millet in the rainy season.
sènèkèla n. farmer (cultivate-do-er)
Sènègali n. Senegal
seri n. a porridge, usually of rice
sèsi n. chair
sètanburu kalo n. September
Seyba (Mamadu) n. male first name
shè n. chicken
(var. sè, sisè)
shiyèn v. scratch
kòrò-shiyèn v. (lit. under-scratch) hoe, weed
si n. hair
kunsi head hair
si n. age, life (as a passage of time)
si v. to pass, spend the night
sira passed the night (past tense)
sibiri (don) n. Saturday
sigarati n. cigarette
sigi v. sit, set, be seated, set down
dumuni sigira The food is served.
n' y'a sigi tabali kan. I put it down on the table.
don ka sigi v. predict (set the day)
sigilan n. chair
sigi-nyògòn n. neighbor (lit. sit together)
sigi-yòrò n. seat, place to sit
silamè n. Muslim, a believer in Islam
silamèya n. Islam, the Moslem religion
sin n. breast
Singare n. family name
sini n. tomorrow
sinikènè n. day after tomorrow
siniman (‘Fr.) n. movie, movie theatre

sinyè n. — time, occasion
a nana sinyè saba. — He came three times.
sinyè fila don o don — twice a day
sira n. — path, road
sira kelen — straight (one raod)
sira n. — tobacco
siran — afraid
ka siran X nyè — be afraid of X
siri v. — attach, tie
Siriman n. — male first name
sisan n. — now
sisan adv. — now
Sise (Cissé) n. — family name
sisi n. — smoke
Sisòkò (Cissoko) n. — family name
siya n. — sort, kind, race, species
so n. — house, compound, living area
somògò (somògòw) n. — family person (family)
so n. — horse
sogo n. — meat, flesh, wild game
sogo kènè — fresh meat
sogobu n. — muscle (meat-flesh)
sògòma n. — morning
sògòma fè — in the morning
sògòma da fè — early in the morning
sògòma in na n. — this morning
sògòma o sògòma n. — every morning
soli v. — wake up very early
solima n. — newly circumcized
solo n. — hip
sɔn v. — worship
sòn v. — give, grant, make an offering to, sacrifice

sòn n. — character, heart (abstract)
sɔn v. — to accept, to resign oneself to
i ka kan ka sòn o ma. — You have to accept that.
sòngo n. — price
sɔni n. — fingernail
sonsoron v. — kneel
sòran n. — verse
sòrò v. — find, get, obtain
n' b'i sòrò kalanso kònò. — I'll find you in the classroom.
sogo bè sòrò suguba la. — Meat is found in the central market.
su n. — evening, night, night time
su fè — at night
surò n. — last night
su in na — this evening, this night
su o su n. — every night
su v. — to dip
su n. — corpse
suda v. — give notice, forewarn
sugu n. — market
suguba n. — central market (market-big)
sugu-la-sigi n. — a sale

sugu n. kind, type, sort
sukandi, sugandi v. select, choose
sukaro ('Eng./Fr.) n. sugar
Suko (Souko) n. family name, female form of Keyita
suman adj. cold, slow
  suman adj. mod.
  sumaya v. slow down, diminsih
suman n. food, crops
Sumaoro n. family name
Sumare (Soumaré) n. family name
sumaya v. slow down, diminish
sumu n. dental cavity
sun n. sole of foot
sun v. fast
sunòg̀ò v. sleep
  a bè sunòg̀ò He is sleeping.
sunya v. steal, rob
  (var. sonya, shuwèn)
  sunyali n. theft, robbery
suraka n. Moor
surò n. last night
  surò̀fana n. dinner, evening meal (night-at-meal)
surun adj. short, near
  surunman, surun adj. mod.
surunya v. approach (time or distance), become short, near
  seli surunyara. The festival is approaching.
sutura v. hide (someone's shame)

T

ta v. take, carry
  i k'a ta. Take it!
  ta v. hire
taa v. go
  n' bè taa so. I go home. (I am going home.)
  taa bò ... ye go visit
    Bari taara bò Musa ye. Barry went to visit Moussa.
  taa ... kò v. succeed
  taa yaala wander around, go walking
    a taara yaala. She went out to walk around.
  taa-ka-segin n. goings and comings
  taali n. going, trip, departure, voyage
taafe n. standard measure of cloth, a woman's wrapped skirt (Fr. pagne)

taama v. travel
  (var. tògòma)
  taamala n. traveller, voyager
taasi n. shame
tabali n. table
  tabalitigi n. table merchant, merchant selling goods from a table (table-owner)

tabulo n.	blackboard
takisi n.	taxi
tamati n.	tomato
Tambura (Tamboura) n.	family name
tan num.	ten
tannan	tenth
tan v.	kick, play
sen-na-ntola-tan n.	football, soccer
tanga v.	respect, prevent
mògò-tanga-fura n.	reputation medicine
tarata (don) n.	Tuesday
Tarawele (Traore) n.	family name
tasa n.	bowl
tasuma n.	fire
tasuma-kemu	red hot coals
tègè n.	hand, palm, foot
tègèkònòna n.	palm (hand-inside)
tègèrè n.	applause, clapping of hands
ka tègèrè fò	to applaud
teli adj.	fast
teliman/teli adj. mod.	
teliya v.	
teliya v.	hurry, rush
a b'i teliya ka taa saga san.	He's rushing to go and buy a goat.
tèmèn v.	go past, to pass up/by, surpass
i mana tèmèn o yòrò la, i b'a ye.	When you've passed that place, you'll see it.
a ka nyi ka tèmèn bèe kan.	She is better than all.
ten n.	forehead
tènènmuso n.	paternal aunt (father's sister)
also binki	
tèrèmè v.	bargain
tèrèmèli n.	bargaining
teri n.	friend
terikè n.	friend (male)
tewutewu	idiophone for full
a fara tewutewu	He's full to the top.
tiga n.	peanut
tigadègè n.	peanut butter
tigadègèna n.	peanut sauce
also na-tiga	
tigatigi n.	peanutseller (peanut-owner)
tigè v.	cut, traverse, cross
i bè gudòròn fila tigè.	You'll cross two paved roads.
i bè sogo tigè ni muru ye.	You cut meat with a knife.
tila ... la v.	finish with
a bè tila baara la.	He finishes the work.
an tilala baara la.	We've finished with the work.
tila n.	half

tile n. — sun, day
tile — heat of day
tile fè — in the heat of the day
tile damadòw — some days
tile in na — during this day
tile o tile n. — every noon (heat of day)
tilebin n. — west, sunset (sun fall)
X tile-bin-yan-fan — the west of X
tilegan n. — the heat of the day (sun-hot)
tilegan fè n. — in the heat of the day (hottest part)
tilelafana n. — lunch, noon meal (sun-at-meal)
tilema n. — hot season, sunny
tilen v. — straighten, go straight
i b'i tilen nin sira_fè. — You go straight on this road.
tilen v. — to pass the day, spend the day
timi adj. — sweet
timiman/timi adj. mod.
tin n. — labor, childbirth, delivery
tintò n. — woman in labor
tinyè v. — spoil, ruin, break, bust
marifa_bè tinyè — The rifle will break.
baara_bè tinyè. — The work will be ruined.
a ye ne ka rajo_tinyè. — He ruined my radio.
tinyè n. — truth, right
var. tiyèn, tonya, tunya, cèn
Tinyè b'i fè. — you're right (you have the truth)
to v. — stay, remain, leave (alone)
n' tè to kalanso_kònò. — I don't stay in the classroom.
to ... kò v. — remain, leave, stay behind
to ... la — remain at ..., to keep doing ...
an tora baro_la. — We kept on talking.
tò n. — remainder, rest, leftover
Mali fan tò bèe. — all the remaining areas of Mali
a tò fila — the two remaining (of it)
a tò man ca — the rest is not much
a ye kini tò dun — He ate the leftover rice.
to n. — to (dish made from millet flour)
tosira n. — leftover to from the night before
tobi v. — cook
a bè to tobi. — She cooks to.
tògò n. — first name
tògò n. — pelvis
tòlò v. — fatten
var. tlò, klò, tulò
tòmò v. — pick up
ton v. — make into a pile, mound, pile up
tòn n. — 1. group, association, team, club
2. quiver
tòn-sigi — conference, meeting (group-sit)
tònò n. — gain, profit, benefit

tòorò n. trouble, problems, etc.
tu n. forest
tu v. bump into
Sagaw bè nyògòn tu. The sheep bump into each other.
tu v. enclose in
a ye sèbèn tu. He enclosed the "gris-gris".
tubabu n. Frenchman, whiteman
tubabukan n. French language (European sound)
tufa n. roof
tuguni adv. again

tulon n. game, recreation, play
tulon tè kèlè sa. Games don't put an end to war.
tulon kè v. play, to do games, etc.
u bè tulon kè. They play.
tulu n. oil
tòlò/tulò adj. be greasy
tuma n. time, moment
tuma dòw sometimes
tuma ni tuma sometimes, from time to time
tuma o tuma every time, all the time, anytime
tuma bèe all the time
Tunkara (Tounkara) n. family name
tunun v. get lost, lose
n'tununnen don. I am lost.
latunun v. cause to be lost, stop
Ture (Touré) n. family name

U

u they
Umaru n. male first name
Umu n. female first name
uti kalo n. August

W

wa sentence final particle question marker
waati n. time, moment
wajibi n. obligation
wala conj. or
walaha n. midmorning
walaka v. destroy
var. waranka
gundo walaka v. inform, break a secret
walan n. wooden slate
walasa so that, in order to
Waraba n. female first name
waranda n. veranda, covered terrace
wari n. money
warimisèn (misèn) n. small change, coins
Wasa n. female first name

waye n. butcher
wècè n. change
wele v. call
jòn tun bè ne wele? Who was calling me?
n' welela Fanta fè. I was called by Fanta.
wo n. hole (in a vertical plane, as in a wall, or in a moveable plane, as in paper, cloth).
see dingè
wolo v. bear (a child)
n' den laban wolola salon. My last child was born last year.
wolo n. skin
wolo n. leather, animal's skin
var. golo
wolonwula num. seven
wolonwulanan seventh
wòorò num. six
wòorònan sixth
woro n. thigh
woro n. kola
worodugu n. south (kola-land), kola-country, Ivory Coast
X woro-dugu-yan-fan the south of X
woro-songo n. the price of kolas, a tip, gratuity
wòrò v. shell, peel
var. wòròn
X wòrò i ko tiga speak X fluently (peel X like a peanut)
wòsi v. perspire, sweat
wòsiji n. sweat, perspiration
woso n. sweet potato
wotoro n. wagon
wulusi v. take seeds out of, as to gin cotton
wula n. afternoon until sundown
wula fè in the afternoon
wula da fè early in the afternoon
wula in na this afternoon
wula o wula n. every afternoon
wuli v. get up, rise up
wusu n. smoke
wusu v. smoke (as e.g. fish, meat)
wusulan n. incense
wusulan-daga n. incense burner (pot)

Y

yaasa so that, in order to
yan adv. here
Yaya n. male first name
ye v. see
n' bi ye I see you
yèlèma v. transform, change, move
yelen melt
yèrèkè v. spread out

yɛ̀rɛ̀-kun	n.	one's self, one
yɛ̀rɛ̀-minɛ̀	n.	self-control, abstaining
yiranyiran/yilanyilan	v.	hestitate, be perplexed
yiriwa	v.	increase, augment
yòli-yòli	n.	seclusion
yòrò	n.	place
baarayòrò		place or work, workshop
sigiyòrò		place to sit, residence

Z

zanwuye kalo	n.	January
zuɛ̀n kalo	n.	June
zuluye kalo	n.	July

English-Bambara Student Lexicon

A

able (to X)	se (ka X) v. se (X la)
He is able to do X	A bè se k'X kè. A bè se X la.
ability	se n.
He has ability.	Se b'a la.
abound, (be) many	caya v.
absence, long	fama n.
greeting after long absence	I ni fama.
absent (to be ...)	
1. to be ___ a long time	1. fama v.
You were absent (gone) a long time.	I famana an ma.
2. to find X ___ or gone	2. fò (X kò)
We came in your absence. (i.e. We found you gone.)	An fòra i kò.
abstain	yèrè minè v.
He abstained from alcohol.	A y'i yèrè minè dòlò la.
abstention	yèrè minè n.
abundance (muchness)	caya n.
accept	sòn v.
He accepted the matter.	A sònna ko ma.
action	kèwale n.
add (on to ...)	fara v. (... kan)
Add some on to it?	Dò far'a kan?
Ten francs will be added on to it.	Dòròme fila bè far'a kan.
admirer	kanubaganci n.
adoration	kanu n.
adore	kanu n.
affair	
1. matter, business	1. ko
2. problem	2. kunko
afternoon	
1. from circa 2 til sunset	1. wula n.
2. late afternoon	2. laansara n.
3. early afternoon, i.e. lunchtime	3. selifana n.
in the afternoon	wulafè
early in the afternoon	wula da fè
this afternoon	wula in na
every afternoon	wula o wula
afraid	siran v.
be afraid of X	ka siran X nyè
again	tuguni
age	si n.
What is his age?	A si ye joli ye?
age	
1. grow old	1. kòrò v.
He has aged.	A kòròra.
2. grow up, mature	2. kògò
He has grown up.	A kògòra.
3. become ready, as food for harvest or consumption	3. mòn

agree — bèn (___ma) v.; sòn (___ma) v.

agreeable — di adj.

aid — duman adj. mod.

Can you help me? — nyè (___ma) v.; I bè se ka nyè n ma wa?

Algeria — Alanseri n.

allow
1. permit — 1. daga v.
Smoking is not permitted. — A dagalen tè mògò ka sigareti min.
2. let — 2. to v.
Let me help you. — A to n k'i dèmè.
3. give — 3. di, labila v.
He allowed me $5.00. — A ye $5.00 labila n ye.
4. agree to let something happen — 4. bila
He allowed me to go. — A ye n bila n ka taa.

alms — saraka n.

give alms — Ala saraka v.

Europeans don't give alms. — Tubabu tè Ala saraka.

amount — hakè n.

I don't know its amount. — N t'a hakè dòn.

amulet

leather packet containing Arabic writing — sèbèn n.

amusement — nyènajè n.

tòlòn n.

analyze — sègèsègè v.

ancient — kòrò adj.

koro adj. mod.

angry

to be angry (at ___) — dimi (___ kòrò) v.

and — ni noun conj.

long form — ani

ankle — senkuru n.

announce — jènsèn v.

(var. jènjèn) see spread

He announced the news. — A ye kibaru jènsèn.

answer — jaabi v.; laminè v.; jabi v.

He hasn't answered me yet. — A ma ne jaabi fòlò.

answer back — kan-to v.

anus — boda n.

anvil — kulan n.

anytime — tuma o tuma

applaud — ka tègèrè fò v.

applause — tègèrè n. see applaud

approach

1. event or place draws near — 1. surunya v.
The festival is approaching. — Seli surunyara.
2. get/come close to — 2. gèrè v.
He approached the woman. — A gèrela muso la.

April	awirili kalo n.
area (of city) see quarter	
arm	bolo n.
armpit	kamankòròla n.
arrival	nali n.
arrival time	na-tuma
arrive	se v.
I arrive at school at 8 o'clock.	N bè se lakoli la lèrè 8 no.
artisan's center ("artisanat")	artizana (‘Fr.) n.
ash/ashes	bugurinjè n.
ask	
1. ask a question of X	1. ka X nyininka v.
2. ask/look for X from Y	2. ka X nyini Y fè v.
assemble	dalajè v.
Lots of people assembled outside.	Mògò caman ye nyògòn dalajè kènèma.
association see group	
at	ma p.
	la p. (na after m, n, etc.)
He is at school	A bè lakoli la.
He is at the prison.	A bè kasobon na.
attach see tie	
attractive see beautiful	
audacious see fierce	
augment	yiriwa v. see also many, abundance
August	uti kalo n.
aunt	binki n.
paternal aunt, father's sister	tènènmuso n.
authority see power	
axe	jele n.
axe blade	jelekise n.
axehandle	jelekala n.

B

baboon	ngòn n.
baby	dennyereni n. see also child
bachelor	cè ganan n.
back	kò n.
bag see sack	
ball	ntola n.
Bambara	bamana
1. person/people	1. bamanaka/bamanakaw
2. language	2. bamanankan
banana	namasa n. see also plantain
bananaseller	namasatigi n.
bank	banki (‘Fr.)
bar (cafe)	dòlòso n.
bard, griot	jeli n.
male bard	jelikè
female bard	jelimuso

bargain	tèrèmè v.
bargaining	tèrèmèli n.
barrel	barigon (‘Fr.)
base, bottom, source	ju n.
basket	segi n.
basketball	bolo-la-ntolan n.
bathe	ko v.
We bathe.	An b'an ko.
battalion	kèlèbolo
battle	kɛ̀lè n.
be able (to do)	se v.
Fanta can't go to town.	Fanta tè se ka taa dugu_kònò.
bear (a child)	wolo v.
	bangi v.
My last child was born last year.	N den laban wolola salon.
He was born last year.	A bangira salon.
beard	bonbonsi n.
beat	bugò v.
beat somebody	se X la
to beat somebody	se mògò dò la
I can beat you.	N' bɛ̀ se i la.
beautiful, pretty, attractive, handsome	cènyi adj. mod.
X is beautiful.	cɛ̀ ka nyi adj.
	X cɛ̀ ka nyi.
beauty	cènyè
because	bawo, sabu, bari conj.
bedroom, hut, room	bon n.
beef	misi n.
beer, alcoholic beverage	dɔ̀lɔ̀ n.
beg	deli v.
We beg you to go.	An b'i deli i ka taa.
beggar	garibu n.
begging	garibuya n.
begin by/with; start out	fɔlɔ̀ v.
He begins with eating.	A bè fɔlɔ̀ ka dumuni_kè.
belittle; insult	dògòya
Fanta insulted Umu.	Fanta ye Umu dògòya.
benediction	dugawn n.
benefit	
1. do good to	1. nafa v.
The new railroad will benefit the country.	Nègè-sira kura bè jamana nafa.
2. improve oneself by	2. fisaya
You will benefit by a vacation.	Konze bè fisaya i ma.
better	fisa better adj.
better than Y	fisa Y ye
better, get; get easier	nògòya
He got better (well).	A nògòyara.
between	cɛ̀ p.
The car is between the tree and the wall.	Mobili_bè jirisun_ni kògò_cɛ̀.

bicycle	nègèso n.
big, large, fat, great	belebele adj. mod.
	bon adj.
	kunba adj., adj. mod.
bill, note	biye n.
bird	kònò
birth	wolo n.
	wolo v.
	bangi v.
give birth to	jigin n.
bitter tomato (vegetable kin to eggplant)	nkòyò
black	fin adj.
	finman adj. mod.
blacken, get dark	fin v.
blackboard	tabulo n.
blacken (someone's) gums for cosmetic purposes	nyin-susu
blacksmith	numu n.
blacksmithing	numuya n.
bladder	nyègènèbara n.
bless	ka dugawu kè mògò ye
block (of street)	kare n.
blood	joli
blouse	kamisoli ('Fr.) n.
blow	fiyè v.
He blew the horn.	A ye buru fiyè.
boat	bato ('Fr.) n. see canoe
bobbin	dòlè, dòra, dòla
body	fari n.
body (bone)	farikolo
boldness	farinya n.
bone	kolo n.
book	liburu n.; kitabu n.
boss	kuntigi n.
bottom, base, source	ju n.
bottom, buttocks	jukunan
boundary, frontier, border	dan n. see also limit v.
bowl	tasa n.
box, small carton	pakati n.
boy	bilakoro n. see child
Bozo, ethnic group of fishermen	boso n.
brain	kunsèmè n.
brave, courageous	kisè adj.
	kisè adj. mod. see also farin
bread	nburu n.
buttocks	jukunan n.

break	
1. ___ a stick	1. ka bere kari v.
2. ___ a pot, shatter, smash	2. ka daga ci v.
3. ___ off	3. kari v.
4. ___ up (as in pieces)	4. ka (fen) karikari v.
5. to destroy, keep from operating	5. tinyè
He broke the bicycle.	A ye nègèso tinyè.
breakfast, morning meal	daraka n.
breast	sin n.
bride	furumuso n.
bride's maid	manyòmagan-muso
bright see red	
bring X	na ni X ye v.
Bring the money.	Na ni wari ye!
bring back a gift for	sama v.
bring up (raise)	lamò v.
Who brought you up?	Jon y'i lamò?
broadcast	jènsèn (var. jènjèn) v.
brother	
1. older brother	1. kòròkè
2. younger brother	2. dògòkè
3. brother in large social sense	3. balimakè
build (as house); erect	jò v.
He builds houses.	A bè so jò.
bull	ntura n.
bullet	marafa-kisè n.
bump into	tu v.
The sheep bump into each other.	Sagaw bè nyògòn tu.
burn	jeni v.
He burned the wood	A ye jiri jeni.
bury (a body)	don v.
bush (as opposed to town)	kungo n.
	wula n.; ŋanyan n.
but	nka conj.
butcher	waye n.
butter	nare n.
buy	
1. buy (general)	1. san v.
I'll buy it.	N' b'a san.
I bought it from Baba.	N y'a san Baba fè.
2. buy (cloth)	2. bagi tigè
They bought a lot of cloth.	U ye bagi caman tigè.
by	fè postposition see towards

C

cajole, flatter	nègèn v.
calabash	filen n.; bara n.
calabash playing during wedding celebration	gita-fò n.
calendar	kalandiriye n.

calf (of leg)	dɛ̀sɛ̀ n.
call	wele v. (var. kili)
Who was calling me?	Jɔ̀n tun bɛ̀ ne wele?
I was called by Fanta.	N' welera Fanta fɛ̀.
We call him Baba.	An y'a wele ko Baba.
calm down, be patient, settle down, have patience,	sabali, sabari
Take it easy.	I sabali.
can X	se v. (ka X) (X la)
He can do it.	A bɛ̀ se ka X kɛ̀. A bɛ̀ se X la.
candy	bɔ̀nbɔ̀n (‘Fr.) n.
canoe, train (means of transportation)	kurun n. see boat
capable of, be	se v.
Mamadu is capable of many things.	Mamadu bɛ̀ se fɛ̀n caman na.
care for	kalifa (... la) v.
He put the cows in my care.	A bɛ̀ misiw kalifa ne na.
carry	ta v.
carry child on back	bamu v.
cash box	kɛ̀su (‘Fr.)
cashew tree (Senegalese mahogany)	jala n.
cassava, manioc	bananku
casted person	
1. casted person (general)	1. nyamakala
2. caste in Mande culture, functionally ill-defined in comparison to blacksmiths and bards	2. finɛ̀ (var. funɛ̀)
3. casted Fulani person	3. maabɔ̀
cattle	misi n.
cattle herdsman	misigɛ̀nna
cause, reason	sababu n. and v. (var. saabu, sabu)
He left because of that.	kòsɔ̀n n. and p. A taara o kòsɔ̀n.
cease	dabila v. see also quit, stop
celebration	seli n. see also amusement
Mawuluti	Moslem celebration of Mohamed's birthday
cemetery	kaburu-don n.
ceremony	gintan n.
certain	dɔ̀ n. quan.
chair	sigilan n.; sèsi n.
change (money)	wɛ̀cɛ̀ n.
change	
1. transform, modify	1. yɛ̀lɛ̀ma v.
She changed into a lion.	A y'i yɛ̀lɛ̀ma ka kɛ̀ jara ye.
2. change (as with money), exchange	2. falen
Can you change this?	I bɛ̀ se ka nin falen?
character (of personality)	sɔ̀n n.
charcoal	finfin n.
charm containing Arabic writing	sɛ̀bɛ̀n n. see amulet

chase, expel, chase away, chase off	gèn v.
chase after	magèn
chatting, conversation, casual talk	baro n.
We chatted.	An ye baro kè.
casual talk, worthless talk	manamana-kan
cheap	nɔ̀gɔ̀n adj. see also easy, soft
	nɔ̀gɔ̀nman; nɔ̀gɔ̀n adj. mod.
cheek	dafuruku n.
chest	disi n.
chew	nyimi v.
chicken	shè (var. sè, sisè) n.
chief (of village)	dugutigi
child	den n.
very young baby	dennyereni
non-circumcized child, boy	bilakoro
last born child	lagare
expression meaning child (lit. arm and leg)	sen ni bolo
childbirth	tin n.
childhood	
1. general term	1. denmisenya
2. childhood before circumcision	2. bilakoroya
chin	bonbon n. (var. bunbun, bumun)
choose	sukandi, sugandi v.
church	egilizi (‘Fr.)
cigarette	sigarati n.
circle	koori n.
circumcize	boloko v.
newly circumcized	solima n.
citrus fruits	lenburu n.
city, town, village	dugu n.
big city	galo-dugu
clap	ka tègèrè fɔ̀ v.
clapping of hands	tègèrè n.
clarify	jèya v. see whiten
classroom	kalanso
clean, light, white, clear	jè adj.
	jèman; jè adj. mod.
clean	jèya v. see whiten
The house is clean now.	So konona jèra sisan.
He cleaned his car.	A y'a ka mobili ko k'a jèya.
clear	jè adj.
	jèman; jè adj. mod.
clear (a field) v.	foro bɔ̀
clever	kegun (var. kekun) adj.
	kegunman; kegun adj. mod.
close v.	da-tugu v.
cloth	
1. cloth	1. bagi n.
They bought a lot of cloth.	U ye bagi caman tigè.
2. funeral cloth	2. kasanke n.
3. woollen cloth	3. kasa

cloth - continued	
4. cloth, clothing	4. fèrèbɔ̀ n.
5. cloth	5. fini n.
6. strip of cloth	6. finikɔ̀nɔ̀ n.
7. standard measure of cloth; a woman's wrapped skirt	7. taafe n.
8. cloth wrap to carry baby on back	8. bamunan-fini n.
9. buy cloth	9. bagi tigè v.
cloud	san-fin n.
club (a social group)	tɔ̀n n.
coals (red hot)	tasuma-kemu n.
cobbler, leather worker	garanke n.
coffee	kafe n.
coins, small change	wari misèn n.
cold	nènè n.
	suman adj.
	suman adj. mod.
cold season	fonènè n.
collect, gather	jè v. see also assemble
come	na v.
He comes here all the time.	A bè na yan tuma bèe.
come back, go back	segin v. see return
come from, come out	bɔ̀ v.
come in	don v.
come in (someone's) absence	ka fɔ̀ (mògɔ̀) kɔ̀ v.
We found you gone.	An fɔ̀ra i kɔ̀.
come visit	na bɔ̀ ... ye
They came to visit me.	U nana bɔ̀ ne ye.
come with X; bring X	na ni X ye v.
Bring the money.	Na ni wari ye!
coming, arriving, arrival	nali
comings and goings	taa-ka-segin
commerce	jago n. see marketing
commission, message, work, task, farm labor	ci n.
compound, house	so n.
compound, home, concession, courtyard	du n.
concentrate	nyè-sin v.
conference, meeting	tɔ̀n-sigi n.
confide see care for	
consideration	gasi n.
consign (to ...)	kalifa (... la)
contentment, happiness	nisɔ̀ndiya n.
control, rule, govern, master	mara v.
convenient	
be convenient for, agree with	bèn (___ ma) v.
Friday is convenient for me.	Juma bè bèn n ma.
conversation, casual talk, chatting	baro n.
conversation, speech	kòrɔ̀-fɔ̀ n.
cook v.	tobi v.
She cooks to.	A bè to tobi.

cool	suman adj.
	suman adj. mod.
	sumaya v.
corn (uncooked grain)	manyɔ̀ n.
corn (for eating, cooked)	kaba n.
corpse	su n.
cosmetics see make up	
cost, expense	musaka n.
cotton	kɔ̀ori n.
little cotton farm	kɔ̀ori-foroni n.
cotton thread	gese n.
count	dan v.
courageous, brave	kisɛ̀ adj.
	kisɛ̀ adj. mod.
courthouse	mɛ̀ri (‘Fr.)
courtyard; court; compound-clearing	du n.; dukɛ̀nɛ̀ n.
couscous	basi n.
leftover couscous from night before	basisira
cover with mud or cement; plaster	bari v.
cow; beef	misi n.
cow with calf	misi-ba
create, weave	da
criticize	kɔ̀rɔ̀ matigɛ̀ v.
crops, food, nourishment	suman n.
cross; traverse; cut	tigɛ̀ v.
You'll cross two paved roads.	I bɛ̀ gudɔ̀rɔ̀n fila tigɛ̀.
crossroads, boundary, transition	dan-kun n.
crowd	jama n.
cry out	kulo v.
cultivate, farm, grow	sɛ̀nɛ̀ v.
He grows millet in the rainy season.	A bɛ̀ nyɔ̀ sène samiya tuma na.
	ci kɛ̀ v.
He wants to farm.	A b'a fɛ̀ ka ci kɛ̀.
cup (a market measure)	poti n.
curse (someone); insult	neni n.
custom, tradition	laada n.
cut, wound, sore	joli n.
medicine for cuts	joli-fura n.
cut; traverse	tigɛ̀ v.
You cut meat with a knife.	I bɛ̀ sogo tigɛ̀ ni muru ye.
cut down grass, as millet	kan v.

D

dance see amusement, game	
dance v.	dɔ̀n kɛ̀ v.
dancing	dɔ̀n n.
dark, black obscure	fin adj.
	finman adj. mod.
darken	fin v.
The sky darkened.	San finna.

darkness	dibi n.
date (fruit)	natamaro n.
daughter (child-female)	denmuso n.
eldest daughter	denmuso kòrɔ̀ba
dawn; daybreak	kènèbɔ̀dafè n.; dugusèjè n;
prayer at dawn	fajiri n.
day	
1. the time the sun shines as opposed to night	1. tile n.
Come during the day.	I ka na tile fè.
2. a duration of time in which activities can take place	2. tile n.
It's happening today.	A bè kè tile in na.
3. a unit of time which can be counted, four days	3. tile n. tile naani
4. a point in time representing 24 hrs. and which cannot be counted	4. don n.
some days	don dɔ̀w
each day	don o don
another day	don wèrè
next day	don nata
day after tomorrow	sinikènè n.
day before yesterday	kunasini n.
three or more days ago	kunasini kɔ̀ n.
death	saya n.; sanga n.
spread the news of the death	sanga lagosi v.
December	desanburu-kalo n. (not usually used without kalo)
decorations, ornaments	masiri n.
decrease	dɔ̀gɔ̀ya v.
deed, action	kèwale n.
deep	dun adj.
delivery (of child)	tin n.
dental cavity	sumu n.
departure	taali n.
descend, lower	jigin v.
desire, wish	ŋaniya n.
desire for war	kèlè ŋaniya n.
desire	nege n.
I desire it.	A nege bè n na.
desire, adoration see love	
destiny	nakan n.
destroy	nagasi v.; walaka (var. waranka) v.
die	1. sa v. 2. fatu v. 3. segin (by ext.) v.
(lit. leave the world)	4. duniya to
(lit. take the mouth away from millet	5. da bɔ̀ nyɔ̀ la
(lit. seize that which was entrusted to you)	6. kalifa mina
difficult	gèlèn adj. see also hard
	gèlèn; gèlènman adj. mod.
The work is hard.	Baara in ka gèlèn.

difficult, become	gèlèya v.
to be hard (for someone)	ka gan (mògò) la
Her leaving will be hard for me.	A taali_ bè gan ne na.
dig	sen v.
They dug a hole.	U ye dingè_sen.
diminish	sumaya v.; dògòya v.
diminutive suffix	-ni
dinner, evening meal	suròfana n.
dip	su v.
direction	fan n.
director	kuntigi n.
dirty	nògòlen adj.
dirt	bògò n.
dirt clod	gòngòrò (var. gongonron) n.
discover	labò v.
distribute	jènsèn v.
dishware, utensil (primarily for kitchen)	minan n.
disturb see upset	
divide	fara v.
do, make, spend, happen, occur, transpire	kè v.
do (to go) 1 kilometer	kilometri kelen kè
do (to spend) 2 days	tile fila kè
do (to spend) 2 years	san fila kè
do again, repeat, return	segin v.
repeat x	ka segin x kan
donkey	fali n.
donkey seller; donkey rider; owner of donkeys	falitigi
door	
1. opening, doorway, through which one passes	1. da n.
The house has 2 doors.	Da fila bè so la.
2. a unit of wood or metal that closes an entry or exit	2. kon
dowry	furunafalo n.
draw near see approach	
dress, gown	òròbu (‹Fr.)
dress	fini ta v.; (var. fini don)
drink	minfèn n.
drink; smoke; eat a liquid food like porridge	min v.
drive, operate see run	
drum (generic term)	dunun n.
hollow wooden drum	jenbe n.
talking drum	ntamani
drum with rubber head	mana-dunun n.
entertainment with drum	jenbe-fò
drumming	dunun-fò n.
drum, one head, closed base	bara n.

dry (up)	ja v.
dryness idiophone	kòskòs
It got very dry.	A jara kòskòs.
dusk, sunset	fitiri n.
prayer at sunset	fitiri n.
dust	buguri n.
dye v.	fin v.
The woman dyed the cloth.	Muso ye fini fin.
dye (indigo) n.	gala n.

E

each other, together	nyògòn
We saw each other.	An ye nyògòn ye.
They found each other.	U ye nyògòn sòrò.
early, quickly	joona adv.
ease, lightness (not heavy)	fiyènya n.
east	kòròn n.
to east of X	X kòròn-yan-fan
easy	di adj.
	duman adj. mod.
The work is easy.	Baara ka di.
easy, cheap	nògòn adj.
	nògònman; nògòn adj. mod.
easy, become _	nògòya v.
eat	dun (var: dumu, dòmu) v.
I don't eat to.	N' tè to dun.
eight	segin num.
eighth	seginna
elbow	nònkònkuru n.
embassy	ambasadi ('Fr.) n.
emphasis particle	dèrè
I am really coming.	N bè na dèrè.
empty, worthless	kolon
empty-handed	bololankolon
enclose in, encase	tu v.
He enclosed the "gris-gris".	A ye sèbèn tu.
end, finish (by ext. die)	ban v.
engaged (to a woman)	maminè v.
enjoy	diyabò v.
You will enjoy the festival.	I na seli diyabò.
enlarge see increase	
enter, come/go in, insert, take/bring in, by ext. bury (a body)	don v.
entertainment	nyènajè n.
entertainment with drum	jenbè-fò n.
games, play	tòlòn n.
entrust	kalifa v. see also consign
(exp. die - lit. seize that which was entrusted to you)	kalifa mina
entry, entrance	donda n.
envelope	anglopu ('Fr.)

equal, same	kan adj.
	kanyaman adj. mod.
equal (an equal)	nyɔ̀gɔ̀n n.
He has no equal.	A nyɔ̀gɔ̀n tɛ̀.
	kanya v.
epic, history, detailed explanation	maana n.
erect, build, stand, stop	jɔ̀
err, be mistaken, make a mistake	fili v.
He won't be mistaken again.	A tɛ̀ fili tuguni.
He was mistaken about the matter.	A filila ko la.
error, mistake, fault	jalaki n.
even	hali
evening, night, night time	su n.
at night	su fɛ̀
this evening, this night	su in na
tonight	su rɔ̀
every evening	su o su
event	kɛ̀wale n.
everytime	tuma o tuma
evil (bad trouble)	baasi n.
exaggerate, pass the limits	dantɛ̀mɛ̀ v.; danmatɛ̀mɛ̀
examine	sɛ̀gɛ̀sɛ̀gɛ̀ v.
exceed (the limit)	danmatɛ̀mɛ̀n
He chats too much.	A bɛ̀ baro kɛ̀ fo k'a danmatɛ̀mɛ̀n.
except, unless, until	fo conj.
exchange (money)	falen n. see change
excrement, dung, manure	bo n.
expel	gɛ̀n v.
expenses, cost	musaka n.
expensive	gɛ̀lɛ̀n adj.
	gɛ̀lɛ̀nma; gɛ̀lɛ̀n adj. mod.
expensive (become)	gɛ̀lɛ̀ya v.
The price became expensive.	A sɔngɔ̀ gɛ̀lɛ̀yara.
The Dyula raised the price of cloth.	Jula ye bagi sɔngɔ̀ gɛ̀lɛ̀ya.
experience (have ___)	deli v.
I have done that.	N delila k'a kɛ̀.
He has the habit of doing that	A bɛ̀ deli k'a kɛ̀.
explain something (to someone)	nyɛ̀fɔ̀ ... ye v.
The teacher explains the affair to us.	Karamɔ̀gɔ̀ bɛ̀ ko nyɛ̀fɔ̀ an ye.
explanation (speak of meaning)	kɔ̀rɔ̀fɔ̀ n.
eye, face, front, fore, forward	nyɛ̀
eyebrow	nyɛ̀kansi n.
eyelash	nyɛ̀kɔ̀rɔ̀si

F

face	nyɛ̀ n; nyɛ̀da
fail	koli v.
faith, religion, character	diina (var. diinɛ̀) n.
fall, autumn, period of Sept.-Oct.	fobonda

fall of night	ko v.
night fallen	su kolen
night has fallen	su kora
until nightfall	fo ka su ko (fo su ka ko)
	ko is a verb which occurs only intransitively and for which su is the only possible subject.
family	denbaya n.
his family	A ka denbaya.
fan, admirer	kanubaganci n.
far	jan adj.
	jamanjan; jan adj. mod.
farm, grow, cultivate	sènè v., n.
farmer	sènèkela n.; cikèla n.
farmwork, growing	ci n.; sènè
He does farmwork every day.	A bè sènè kè don o don.
fast	teli adj.
	teliman; teli adj. mod.
	teliya v.
fast (not eat)	sun v.
fat, big, imposing	kunba adj. see also big
father (no definite article)	fa n.
My father is here.	N fa bè yan.
affectionate term; nickname given to someone bearing his grandfather's name	baba
fatten	tòlò (var. tlò, klò, tulò) v.
fear see afraid	
February	fewuruye-kalo n.
ferocity, boldness	farinya n.
festival	seli n.
sheep for a festival	seli-saga
fetish, idol	boli
fever	farigan n.
field	foro n.
clear a field	foro bò
fierce, bold	farin adj.
	farinman; farin adj. mod.
fight, battle, struggle, war	kèlè n.
	kèlè v.
fill, get full, be full	fa v.
I'll fill it with water.	N' b'a fa ji la.
It doesn't fill (or) It isn't idiophone for full	A tè fa.
	tewutewu
He's full to the top.	A fara tewutewu.
find (a place)	labò v.
find, get, obtain	sòrò v.
I'll find you in the classroom.	N' b'i sòrò kalanso kònò.
Meat is found in the central market.	Sogo bè sòrò suguba la.
find (someone) gone, come in (someone's) absence	fò ... kò
find out, look for, search	nyini v.

finger	bolonkòni n.
fingernail	sòni n.
finish	ban v.
Is it finished?	A banna?
She had finished the work.	A tun ye baara_ban.
idiophone for finish	pewu
It is finished completely.	A banna pewu.
finish with	tila ... la v.
He finishes the work.	A bè tila baara_la.
We've finished with the work.	An tilala baara_la.
fire	tasuma n.
red hot coals	tasuma-kemu
firewood, measure of firewood	dògò-siri n.
first, at first, long ago	fòlò adj.; fòlòfòlò adj
	gale adj.
fish	jègè n.
five	duuru num.
five francs	dòròmè (kelen) n.
flatter, cajole	nègèn v.
flee see run	
flesh (boneless flesh)	bu n.
flesh, meat, game	sogo n.
flock to	magèn v.
fly, jump, leap	pan v.
fonio (fonio grain)	finikisè
food	dumunifènw n.; balo n.
food, crops	suman n.
fool, cajole, flatter	nègèn v.
foot, leg	sen n.
He went on foot.	A taara a senna.
foot	sentègè n.
football, soccer	sen-na-ntola-tan
forbid, prevent	bali v.
force	
1. heavenly, by Allah's grace	1. barika
2. physical strength	2. fanga
3. mystical, occult, or secret force	3. dalilu
fore	nyè n.
forehead	ten n.
forewarn, give notice	suda v.
forge	fan n.
forge-mouth	fan-da
forget (X)	hakili bò X kò v.; nyina X kò v.
Don't forget about me!	Kana nyina n kò.
forgiveness, mercy	hakè-to n.
We ask your mercy.	Hakè-to b'a la.
Excuse me!	Hakè-to!
forest, woods, jungle	tu n.
formerly	fòlò; fòlòfòlò

forward	nyè n.
four	naani num.
fourth	naaninan
Frenchman, whiteman	tubabu n.
French language	tubabukan n.
Friday	juma (don) n.
friend	teri n.
male friend	terikè
female friend	terimuso
fritter	ŋòmi n.
frog	ntori
from, since	kabini conj.
from now on	kabini sisan conj.
front	nyè n.
fruit	jiri-den n.
Fula, Fulani people	fula, fila n.
casted Fulani person	maabò n.
Fula language	fulakan n.
funeral	sudon n.
funeral cloth	kasanke n.
futa/fouta region of Mali, Senegal, Guinea	futa n.

G

gain, profit, benefit	tòno v.
game, recreation, play	tulon n. (variant: tolon, tlon, klon)
Games don't destroy war.	Tulon tè kèlè sa.
game (wild)	sogo n.
garden	nakò n.
gasoline	esansi ('Fr.) n.
gather (together), assemble	(nyògòn) da-lajè
gather, collect	jè v.
germinate	faleŋ v.
get, obtain	sòrò v.
get up, rise up	wuli v.
gift, to a parent or relative at wedding time	fabonya n. see also increase
gift	nili-fèn v.; sama n.
gin, take seeds out as in ginning cotton	wulusi v.
girl	
1. young girl before initiation or excision	1. npogotigi
2. young girl, maiden, after initiation	2. sungurun (var. sunkutun)
give	1. ka (fèn) di (mògò) ma
	2. ka (mògò) ni (fèn) na
give alms see alms	
give birth to	jigin v.
give notice	suda v.
glue, stick v.	nòrò v.
He glues the leather.	A bè wolo nòrò.

go	taa (var: taga, wa) v.
I go home.	N' bè taa so.
(I am going home.)	
go back	segin v. see also return
go in	don v.
go out	bɔ̀ v.
go to (a place)	magèn v.
They will attend the market.	U bè sugu magèn.
going, trip, voyage	taali n.
goat	ba n.
good	
1. to taste, sweet	1. di adj.
	duman adj. mod.
2. nice, pleasant	2. di adj.
	duman adj. mod.
3. correct, right	3. nyi adj.; nyuman adj. mod.
4. perfect, beautiful	4. nyi adj.; nyuman adj. mod.
good, become; become pretty	nyè v.
Studying is getting better now.	Kalan bè ka nyè sisan.
good, make; make happy	ladiya v.
He made his child happy.	A y'a den ladiya.
good luck/fortune, happiness, peace	hèrè n.
gourd	filen n.
government building	kube n.
grab, catch, seize, hold, arrest	minè v.
grace, divine, benediction	barika n. see also force
grain, seed	kisè n.
granary	jiginè n.
grandparent; person of alternate generation (grandparent, grandchild) always used in compound with kè, muso, den	mɔ̀ n.
grandmother	mɔ̀muso n.
grandfather	mɔ̀kè
grandchild	mɔ̀den n.
grant, offer	ni v.; sɔn v.
grant a person something	ka (mògò) ni (fèn) la
offering, gift	nili-fèn
grass	bin n.
weeds	binjugu n.
grave	kaburu n.; sale-dinga n.
gray or white hair	kunsigi jè n.
great see big	
grease, oil	tɔ̀lɔ̀ n.; tulɔ̀ n.
greasy	tɔ̀lɔ̀ma
green, fresh, unripe	geren adj.
greet, salute	fo v.
greeting response, female	nse
greeting response, male	nba

griot, bard	jeli n.
gris-gris	sèbèn n. see also amulet
group, association, team, club	tòn n.
conference, meeting	tòn-sigi
grow	
1. grow (something), cult vate	1. sènè
What do you grow?	I bè mun sènè?
2. germinate	2. falen
grow up see age	
guava	buyaki
guilt	hakè n.
gun, rifle, shotgun	marifa n. (var. morifa, marafa)
gunsmith	marifadilala n.

H

habit see experience (have)	
hair	si n.
head hair	kunsi (var. kunsigi)
do (someone's) hair	ka (mògò) kun da
half	tila n. (var. tala, tla, kla)
hammer	marato ('Fr.) n.
hand, palm, foot	tègè n.
handle	kala n.
handsome see beautiful	
happen	kè v.
What happened?	Mun kèra?
happiness, peace, good luck	hèrè n.
happy (become)	ladiya v.
He made his child happy.	A y'a den ladiya.
hard; difficult; expensive	gèlèn adj.
	gèlèn; gèlènman adj. mod.
It's hard, expensive, difficult.	A ka gèlèn.
It's price is expensive.	A da ka gèlèn.
It is not hard, expensive, difficult.	A man gèlèn.
harden	gèlèya v.
have to; obliged to; must	kan adj.
He must go.	A ka kan ka taa.
he, she, it	a, ale pro.
head, upper extremities	kun
head, skull	kunkolo (var. kungolo) n.
headman, leader	kuntigi n.
head-cover, cap, hat	banfula n.
head of family, head of household	dutigi n.
healthy	kènè adj.
	kènèman adj. mod.
heart	
1. body part	1. dusukun n.; sòn n.
2. abstract term for courage	2. dusu
He doesn't have the heart.	A dusu t'a la.
hearth, cooking stones, kitchen	ga n. (var. gwa, gba)

heat; get hot	gan v.; goniya (gonin)
The water got hot.	Ji goniyara.
The woman heats water every day.	Muso bè ji goniya don o don.
heat	funteni n.
heat of the day	tile n.; tilegan n.
in the heat of the day	tile fè; tilegan fè
heaven	alijana n.
heavens	san n.; sankolo n.
heavy	girin adj.
	girinman; girin adj. mod.
heavy, become; get heavy	girinya v.
His wife got heavy.	A muso girinyara.
Eating made me heavy.	Dumuni ye ne (la)girinya.
hedgehog	juguni n.
help	nyè (__ma) v.; nyi (__ye) v.
He helped the person.	A nyèna mògò ma.
	dèmè v.
She helped me.	A ye n dèmè.
	see also aid
henna tree, the leaves are used as makeup by women on their hands and feet	jabi n.
here	jan adv.
heritage, inheritance	cèn n.
hereafter	kabini sisan conj.
hesitate, be perplexed	yiranyiran v. (var. yilanyilan)
hide	dogo v.
hide (someone's shame)	sutura v.
high, long, far	jan adj.
	jamanjan; jan adj. mod.
hill, mound	ntugun n.
hip	solo n.
hire	ta v.
They hired me.	U ye n ta.
hoe n.	daba n.
small hand hoe with short handle	dabanikurunni n.
hoe, weed v.	kòrò-shiyèn v. (lit. under-scratch)
hoe blade	dabakisè n.
hold see grab	
hold against	minè o ma v.
hole	
1. in a vertical plane as in a wall or in a moveable plane, as in paper, cloth	1. wo
2. hole (in ground)	2. dingè (var. dinga)
holyman	mori n.
activity of holyman	moriya n.
home	du n.
I'm going home.	N bè taa so.
	N bè taa n bara.
hook	dolen n.
hope	jigiya n.
	jigi
There's no hope.	Jigi sara.

horse	so n.
host	jatigi
The person who receives a stranger in a village or town.	
hot	
1. general adjective	1. gan adj. (var. gwan/gòni)
	gan adj. mod.
2. hot (restricted to liquids)	2. kalan adj.
	kalan/kalanman adj. mod.
hot, to get	kalaya v.
The water got hot.	Ji kalayara.
He is heating water.	A bè ka ji kalaya.
hot season	tilema n.
hour	lèrè ('Fr.)
household, house, compound, living area	so n.
person of the household	somògò
house-hold articles	minan n.
household head	dutigi n.
how?	di int. adv.
	cogo di
	cogo jumèn
how much?	joli n.
How much each (a piece)?	joli joli
humor, mood	nisòn n.
hunger	kòngò n.
hunter	donso n.
chief hunter	donsoba n.
hunting, the art of the hunter	donsoya
hurry, rush	teliya v.
He's rushing to go and buy a goat.	A b'i teliya ka taa saga san.
husband, man	cè n.
no definite article when meaning husband	
hut see bedroom	

I

I	n' n.
	ne long form, nne emphatic form
if, when	ni sub. conj.
image	ja n.
imam, prayer leader	alimami n.
imitate	ladege v.
immoral person	jatò n.
imposing, great, large	kunba adj.
imprison	datugu (lit. close) v.
They imprisoned Baba.	U ye Baba datugu.

improve	lanya v.
He improved his house.	A y'a ka so lanya.
(He had his house improved.)	
improve, do better, be better	fisaya (fisa)
You did better than I.	E fisayara ne ye.
improve, better, become easy	nɔ̀gɔ̀ya
in, inside	kɔ̀nɔ̀ p.
in	la (na after m, n, etc.)
She is in Mali.	A bè Mali la.
in order to	yaasa conj.
incapable, worthless, empty	kolon adj.
	kolon adj. mod.
incense	wusulan n.
incense burner (pot)	wusulan-daga
increase, get big	
1. respect, praise, get big	1. bonya v.
He respects everyone.	A bè mɔ̀gɔ̀ bɛ̀e bonya.
Her family increased (grew).	A ka denbaya bonyana.
2. enlarge	2. labonya
We enlarged our house.	An y'an ka so labonya.
3. grow in number, become plentiful	3. caya
Cars have increased in Bamako.	Mobili cayara Bamakɔ̀.
She increased the water in the jar.	A ye ji lacaya daga kɔ̀nɔ̀.
4. increase, augment, prosper	4. yiriwa
inform	walaka v.
Let the cat out of the bag.	gundo walaka
information	kibaruya n.
inheritance	cɛ̀n n.
in-law	biran n.
younger in-laws	nimɔ̀gɔ̀ n.
insert	don v.
inside	kɔ̀nɔ̀ n.
insult see belittle	
interpret	kuma-sasela v.
intestines	nogo n.
investigate	sɛ̀gɛ̀sɛ̀gɛ̀ v.
iron	nɛ̀gɛ̀ n.
iron ore	nɛ̀gɛ̀-fin
Islam, the Moslem religion	silamèya n. see also Muslim
it, he, she	a n.
Ivory Coast, kola country, the south	woro-dugu n.

J

January	zanwuye kalo n.
jaw	dakala n.
joy, contentment	nisɔ̀diya, nisɔ̀ndiya n.
July	zuluye kalo n.
jump, fly	pan v.
June	zuɛ̀n kalo n.

K

keep	
1. save	1. mara v.see control
2. keep on doing ...	2. to ... la
We kept on talking.	An tora baro la.
kick	tan v.
football, soccer	sen-na-ntola-tan
kill, slaughter	faga v.
Everyone slaughtered a sheep.	Bèe ye saga faga.
kin of same generation	balima n.
kind, type, sort	sugu n.; siya n. (var. si); sifa n.; sifaya n.
king	1. masa n. (var. mansa) 2. fama n. (var. faama)
kitchen, hearth	ga n.
kitchen (hearth-hut)	gabugu
kola nut	woro n.
kola country, Ivory Coast, the south	woro-dugu
price of kolas, a tip, a gratuity	woro-songo
Koranic student, beggar	garibu n.
knee	kunbèrè n.
kneel	sonsoron v.
knife	muru n. see also machete
knifehandle	murukala
know	dòn v.
He knows hunting.	A bè donsoya dòn.
Koran	kurana n.

L

labor	
1. childbirth, woman in	1. tin
woman in labor	tintò
2. see work	
laborer, main-oeuvre	baaranyini n.
ladle, large spoon	galama n.
last born child	lagare n.
land	
1. land as earth	1. dugu n. (var. banko, banku, du)
	dugu-kolo
land-owner, has spiritual rights to land	dugu-kolo-tigi
2. country	2. jamana
language, sound	kan n.
large see big	
last (a long time); be a long time; stay/pass a long time	mèn v.
It's been a long time.	A mènna.
It hasn't been a long time.	A tuma ma mèn.
law	sariya n.
leader	nyèmògò n.
leadership	nyèmògòya n.

leaf, medicine	fura n.
learn	kalan v.; dege v.
learning	kalan n.
leather, animal skin	wolo n. (var. golo)
leather bag	foroko n.
leather worker, cobbler	garanke n.
leave	
1. put down; let go of;	1. bila v.
Leave it! (Put it down!)	A bila.
2. leave, go out, come from, come out	2. bɔ̀ v.
3. leave (alone), leave behind	3. to v.
left	numan n.
left hand	numanbolo n.
to the left	numanfɛ̀
leftover, remains, remainder	tɔ̀ n.
He ate the leftover rice.	A ye kini tɔ̀ dun.
leg, foot	sen n.
football, soccer	sen-na-ntola-tan
child, offspring (lit. leg and arm)	sen-ni-bolo n.
lemon (sour citrus)	lenburukumun n.
lemonade	lenburuji n.
length of time, duration	kuntaa n.
length of time of his power	a fanga kuntaa
lengthen, get tall, get long	lajanya v.; janya v.
You lengthened our way.	I y'an ka sira lajanya.
Moussa grew tall.	Musa janyara.
lessen	sumaya v.; dɔ̀gɔ̀ya v.
let go, allow, permit	labila v.
let ... in (from don to enter), make enter	ladon
You should get me into the movie!	I ka ne ladon siniman na!
letter	lètèrè n.
level, equalize	dakènyè v. (var. dakanya)
lie (to tell a lie)	nkalon v. (var. ngalon, wuya, kalon)
lie down, go to bed, lay down	da v.
He lies down.	A b'i da.
She lay the cloth out on the ground.	A bè fini da dugu-ma.
life (as a passage of time), age	si n.
light (not dark)	jɛ̀ adj.
	jèman, jɛ̀ adj. mod.
light (not heavy)	fiyen/finyè adj.
	finyèman adj. mod.
lighten, get light (weight), ease	finyèya v.
His load lightened.	A doni finyèyara.
You should lighten my load!	I ka n'doni finyèya!
like	di adj.
I like it.	A ka di n ye.
	ka kè X fè
I like it.	N b'a fè
limit, boundary	dan, dan-kun n.
limit, delimit	dan v.

lineage, patrilineage	buruju n.
lineage praising	buruju-gosi n.
lips	dawolo n.
listen	lamèn v.; k'i tolo majò
I'm listening to you.	N' bè i lamèn.
little, small, young	dògòn adj.
	dògòman; fitini; ni adj. mod.
little, slightly	dòoni quan.
live, exist	balo v.
May God grant Bari (a long) life.	Ala ka Bari balo.
be living, alive	balolen adj.
He is living.	A balolen bè.
liver	binyè n.
living, alive	balolen adj.
He is living	A balolen bè.
living (to make a living, livelihood)	dahirimè adj.
living thing, creature	dan-fèn n.
load	doni n.
long ago	fòlò; fòlòfòlò
long, tall, far, high	jamanjan (var. jan) adj. mod.
	jan adj.
look after ...; look out for; to watch out for	kòlòsi v.
He looks after cattle closely.	A bè misiw kòlòsi kosèbè.
He observed (carefully) along the road.	A ye kòlòsili kè sira la.
look at	mafilè v.
look for, search	nyini v.
loose (not tight)	magan adj.
	maganman; magan adj. mod.
lose	
1. lose, get lost	1. tunun v.
I am lost.	N' tununnen don.
I lost the money.	N ye wari tunun.
2. cause to be lost, stop	2. latunun v.
3. to lose a contest see fail	
love, desire, adoration	kanu n.
fan, admirer	kanubaganci n.
loved one	diya-n-ye-mògò n.
lower, descend	jigin v.
lower, cause to descend	lajigin v.
lunch, noon meal	tilelafana n.
lung	fogonfogon n.
lute	
1. 6 string harp-lute for hunters	1. donso-nkoni (also: sinbin)
2. 21 string harp lute	2. kora

machete, knife, sword	bese n.
magic potion (Muslim)	nasi n.
make	
1. do	1. kè
2. prepare, repair	2. dila
3. make a meal	3. tobi
make up, cosmetics	masiri n., v.
man	
1. generic human being	1. mògò n.
2. male human being	2. cè (var: kè) see also husband n.
mango	mangoro n.
manhood	cèya n.
manioc	bananku n.
manner	
1. way, style	1. cogo (var: sugu) n.
the manner of saying it	a fòli cogo
2. how	2. cogo
How? In what manner?	Cogo di?
What is she like?	A bè cogo di?
manners, good behavior	mògòya
He has bad manners.	A tè mògòya dòn
(i.e. he doesn't know how to behave)	
many, numerous	ca adj.
	caman adj. mod.
March	marisikalo n.
market	sugu n.
central market	suguba
market, weekly fair, weekly market	dògò n.
go to market	ka dògò jò
market, trade (in)	jago v.
They market goats.	U bè ba jago.
marketing, trading, commerce	jago n.
They market in the big town.	U bè jago kè duguba kònò.
marriage	furu n.; kònyò n.
modern, religious marriage	furu-siri n.
marriage broker	furu-boloma n.
marry (a woman), marry (a man)	furu v., ka sigi cè fè
mat	dèbèn n.
match	alimèti (‘Fr.) n.; takala n.
mature, age, grow-up	kògò v.
May	mè kalo n.
meal	
1. breakfast	1. daraka
2. lunch	2. tilelafana
3. dinner	3. suròfana
4. food, nourishment	4. suman
5. something to eat	5. dumuni

mean, nasty, vicious	jugu adj.
	juguman/jugu adj. mod.
get mean, get nasty, get vicious	juguya v.
The dog got mean.	Wulu juguyara.
measure v.	suman v.
measure	
1. generic measure	1. suman n.
2. measure for gold	2. mure, dola n.
3. measure for small quantities of grain, 500g.	3. pani n.
4. measure of firewood	4. dògò-siri n.
meat, flesh, wild game	sogo n.
fresh meat	sogo kènè
Mecca	Maka n.
medicine, leaf	fura n.
make medicine for	fura bò v.
reputation medicine	mògò-tanga-fura
power medicine	nyama-fura
medicine for cuts	joli-fura n.
snake bite medicine	sa-kin-fura n.
meet	
1. meet (together)	1. (nyògòn) dalajè v.
2. meet, agree	2. bèn v.
meeting	tòn-sigi n.
melt	yelen v. (var: yeelen)
memorize	durusi v.
merchant, trader	jula n.; jagokèla
merchant selling goods from a table (table-owner)	tabalitigi n.
message	ci n.
messenger	ci-den n.
middle	camance n. (var: cèmancè)
midmorning, morning	walaha n.
milk	nònò n.
soured milk, yogurt	nònòkumun
millet	nyò n.
millet, white millet	keninge
millet dish, cracked millet	nyènyènkini n.
millet flour dish, to	to n.
leftover to from the night before	tosira n.
mind, spirit, thought, intelligence	hakili n.
He has a mind (i.e. he is intelligent)	hakili b'a la.
mint (leaf)	nanaye n.; nana n.
miss (someone), find (someone) gone	fò (mògò) kò
I missed you yesterday.	N' fòra i kò kunun.
mistake, make a; err; be mistaken	fili v.
He won't be mistaken again.	A tè fili tuguni
I mistook you (for someone else).	N filila i ma.
mistake, error, fault	jalaki n.
mix	nòni v.; nòoni v.

mobylette see motorcycle	
moment see time	
Monday	ntɛ̀nɛ̀n (don) n.
every Monday	ntɛ̀nɛ̀n o ntɛ̀nɛ̀n
next Monday	ntɛ̀nɛ̀n (don) nata
last Monday (or any day)	ntɛ̀nɛ̀n (don) tɛ̀mɛ̀nnen
money	wari n.
coins, small change	wari misɛ̀n
month	kalo n.
next month	kalo nata, kalo kura n.
this month	kalo in na n.
every month	kalo o kalo n.
last month	kalo tɛ̀mɛ̀nnen n.
mood	nisɔn n.
Moor	suraka n.
morning	sɔ̀gɔ̀ma n.
in the morning	sɔ̀gɔ̀ma fɛ̀
early in the morning	sɔ̀gɔ̀ma da fɛ̀
every morning	sɔ̀gɔ̀ma o sɔ̀gɔ̀ma
this morning	sɔ̀gɔ̀ma in na
see also midnorning	
Moslem celebration of Mohamed's birthday	Mawuliti
mosque	misiri n.
mosquito	soso (var: sɔ̀sɔ̀)
mosquito net	sange
mother (no definite article)	ba n.
Can be used to refer to someone else's mother, e.g. his mother	a ba
Used to refer to speaker's mother	na (In Maninka, ba and na are synonymous.)
mother with children	den-batigi n.
motorcycle	
1. generic term, 2 wheels and motorized	1. moto n.
2. motorbike	2. poponi n.
3. motorcycle	3. dubulu n.; motobaraba n.
mound, hill	ntugun n.
mourning time	furuja n.
mouth	da n.
take the mouth away from millet, e.g. die	da bɔ̀ nyɔ̀ la.
move	yɛ̀lɛ̀ma v.
movie, movie theatre	siniman n. (‹Fr.)
much	
1. How much? How much each (a piece)?	1. joli n.
	joli joli
2. see many	
mud	bɔ̀gɔ̀ n.
mud, cover with or cover with cement (as a wall)	bari v.

muscle	sogobu n.
Muslim, a believer in Islam	silamè n.
see also Islam	
must	kan adj.
see obliged to	
He must go.	A ka kan ka taa.
mutton	sagasogo n.

N

name	
1. first name	1. tògò
2. last name	2. jamu
nasty	jugu adj.
	juguman/jugu adj. mod.
	juguya v.
navel	bara n.
near	surun adj.
	surun/ surunman adj. mod.
become near, short	surunya v.
near	kòrò p.
see under, approach	
neck, throat, upper extremities, voice, sound, language	kan n.
need	mako n.
neighbor	siginyògòn n.
nerve	fasa n.
new	kura adj.
	kura adj. mod.
news, information	kibaru n.; kibaruya n.
nice	
1. pleasant, pleasurable	1. di adj.
	duman adj. mod.
a nice meal	dumuni duman
2. of person or personality, good	2. nyi
He is nice	A ka nyi
3. of quality (as opposed to bad)	3. nyi
a good horse	so nyuman
Niger River	jòliba/jaliba n.
night	
1. night, night time	1. su n.
at night	su fè
last night	surò
this night	su in na
every night	su o su
2. night, late evening	2. saafo n.
3. middle of night	3. dugu-tila
night, spend/pass the	si v.
see also pass the night	
nine	kònòntòn num.
ninth	kònòntònnan
noble, non-casted person	hòròn n.
noise	mankan n.

noon	midi (‘Fr.) n.; tilegan fè
at noon	midi fè
come at noon	na tilegan fè
north, Sahel region	saheli n.
the north of X	X saheli-yan-fan
nose	nun n.
nothing	foyi (in negative sentence)
November	nowanburu kalo n.
now	sisan n.
number (of), amount	hakè n.

O

obligation	wajibi n.
oblige	
1. see must	
2. oblige, force (idea of sanction)	2. jagoya
3. oblige, require (idea of moral commitment)	3. wajibiya
You are required to do it.	I wajibiyalen don k'a kè.
obliged to, to have to, must	kan adj.
I must go home.	N' ka kan ka taa so.
I must not stay here.	N' man kan ka to yan.
obscure	fin adj.
	finman adj. mod.
obscurity, darkness, shadow	dibi n.
obtain	sòrò v.
occasion	sinyè n. see also time
occur	kè v. see also do
October	ɔkutoburu kalo n.
offend (someone)	baga (mògò) la v.
Don't offend the smith.	Kana baga numu la.
offense	jɔnmaya n.
office	biro (‘Fr.) n.
oil	tulu n.
okra	gan n. (var: gwan n.)
old, ancient	kòrò adj.
	kòrò adj. mod.
old, of; in the past	ka kòrò adv.
on	kan p. ; ma post position
There is chalk on the table.	Lakèrè_bè tabali_kan.
Her little sister is on the mat.	A dògòmuso_bè dèbèn_kan.
Your child is on the ground.	I den_bè duguma.
Musa is outside.	Musa bè kènèma.
one	
1. one	1. kelen num.
2. one, certain person, someone, some, something	2. dɔ
3. oneself	3. yèrè-kun
by oneself	kelennama adj.
onion	jaba n.

only	dɔ̀rɔ̀n adv.
open space	
1. in compound or village	1. kènè n. fèrè n.
2. a rocky clearing in bush	2. fuga n.
or	wala conj.
orange (big citrus)	lenburuba n.
ornaments	masiri n.
see make-up	
outskirts	dankun n.

P

package	pake (‘Fr.) n.; karaton (‘Fr.)
palm (inside of hand)	tègèkɔ̀nɔ̀na n.
palm tree	ban n.
palm wine	ban-ji n.
pancake, breakfast cake	furufuru n.
see also fritter	
party	
1. amusement	1. nyènajè n.
2. political party	2. parati n.
pass	
1. go past, surpass, go up/by	1. tèmèn
When you've passed that place, you'll see it.	I mana tèmèn o yɔ̀rɔ̀_la, i b'a ye.
She is better than all.	A ka nyi ka tèmèn bèe kan.
2. pass, spend the night	2. si v.
passed the night (past tense)	sira
3. pass the day	3. tilen v.
4. pass (exam)	4. se (ko) la
past, in the; of old	ka kɔ̀rɔ̀ adv.
path, road	sira n.
patience, be patient, settle down	sabali v. (var: sabati, sabari)
paved road	gudɔ̀rɔ̀n (‘Fr.)
peace, happiness, good luck	hèrè n.
peanut	tiga n.
peanut butter	tigadègè n.
peanut butter sauce	tigadègèna n.
peanutseller	tigatigi n.
pebble	
1. clod of dirt	1. gòngɔ̀rɔ̀ n. (var. gongonron)
2. small stone, gravel	2. bèlè
3. small stone	3. kaba misèn
pedestrians, those who walk	sennamɔ̀gɔ̀w n.
peer, twin	filan n.
pelvis	tɔ̀gɔ̀ n.
pencil	kiriyon (‘Fr.) n.
penis	fɔ̀rɔ̀ n.
people	mɔ̀gɔ̀w n.
pepper, hot	foronto n.; kanikani n. (var: kènikèni)

perfect	nyi adj.
	nyuman adj. mod.
permit	bila/bla v.; labila v.
perplexed, be	yiranyiran v. (var. yilanyilan)
person	mògò n.
someone (a certain person)	mògò_dò
no one	mògò_si
such person, somebody, so and so	karisa n.
worthless person	fugari n.
immoral person	jatò n.
rich person	baana n.
person of caste	nyamakala n.
perspire, sweat	wòsi v.
perspiration, sweat	wòsiji n.
pick up	tòmò v.
picture, photo	ja n.
pile, bunch, measure	sara n.
pile up, make into a pile, mound	ton v.
pineapple	jabibi n.
pity	hinè n.
place	yòrò n.
place of work	baarayòrò
place to sit; residence	sigiyòrò
place to stand	joyòrò
plant, sow	dan v.
planting	danni n.
plantain	namasaba n.
play	tulon n.
play, to do games	tulon_kè v.
They play.	U bè tulon_kè.
play, kick	tan v.
please, to make good, to make happy	diya v.
It pleased me.	A diyara ne ye.
pleasurable	di adj.
	duman adj. mod.
plenty	
1. more than enough	1. ba n'a si (lit. the goat and its hairs)
2. see many	
pliers	balan n.
policeman, policewoman	polosi ('Fr.) (var. polisi) n.
plow	saribilenni n.
small ox-drawn plow	misidaba n.
(lit. little red plow)	
plow, turn over soil	buluku v.
poor	
tired, fatigued, worn out	sègèn n.
He is poor.	Sègèn b'a la.
poor one	sègènbagatò

porcupine	bala n.
porridge	
1. made with millet and other grains	1. mòni n.
2. made with leftover rice	2. seri n.
3. a thin gruel with sweetener	3. dɛ̀gɛ̀ n.
position	jò-yòrò n.
see role	
possibility	
1. a possible thing.	1. seko
It is a possibility.	A ye seko ye.
2. see able, can	
post office	pòsiti (‘Fr.) n.
postpone see put off	
pot	
1. pot, pottery, vase	1. daga n.
2. pot	2. faa n.; poti (‘Fr.) n.
3. big pot	3. faaba
potato	
1. regular	1. pòmitèrè (‘Fr.) n.
2. sweet potato	2. woso
3. yam	3. ku
potion (magic)	nasi n.
poverty	sɛ̀gɛ̀n n.; fantanya n.
see poor	
power	
1. political power	1. fanga n.; se n.
2. strength	2. fanga n.
see also force	
praise	barama n.
praise song	fasa n.
praising of lineage	buruju-gosi n.
pray	seli v.
lead in prayer	lasali v.
pray over X	seli X kan v.
prayer	seli n.
prayer at dawn	fajiri n.
prayer at dusk	fitiri n.
prayer leader	alimami n.
predict	sigi v.
predict the day	don ka sigi
prefer	fisaya (fisa) v.
He prefers his first wife over his second.	A b'a muso fòlò fisaya n'a muso filanan ye.
preferred woman	nya-na-muso
preferred wife	baramuso
pregnant	kònòma adj.
become pregnant (take belly)	kònò ta v.
prepare	
1. make, repair	1. dila v.
2. ready oneself	2. k'i labèn
Let's prepare ourselves.	An k'an labèn.
They prepared themselves.	U y'u labèn.

pretty see beautiful	
pretty, become see good, become	
prevent	bali v.
price	sɔ̀ngɔ̀ n.; da n.
Last price, final price	kari n.
very last price	karikari n.
prison	kaso, kasobon n.
problem	
1. requiring thought, solution	1. kunko n.
2. cause of distress	2. tɔ̀rɔ̀ n.
profit	tɔ̀nɔ̀ v.
promise	layidu n.
prosper see augment	
punish	nyagin v. (var: nyangi)
purify	jèya v.
see whiten	
put	
1. put down	1. bila
I can't accompany you (put you on the road).	N' tè se k'i bila sira.
Put it down!	A bila!
2. put off, be put off, be left to, be postponed or abandoned until	2. bila ... la
My trip is put off until next Friday.	N ka taali bilala juma nata la.
3. put (something) before (something else)	3. bila ... nya
4. put X to Y, assign X to Y	X bila Y la v.

Q

quarter (of city)	kin n.
Bamako has many quarters.	Bamako kinw ka ca.
quiet down, shut up	makun v.
quit ...; cease	dabila v.
I quit work.	N' ye baara dabila.
quiver	tɔ̀n n.

R

race, species	siya n.; si n.
rain	san-ji n.
rainy season	samiyè n.; samiya n.
raise	
1. bring up (a person)	1. lamɔ̀
2. raise, raise up (an object)	2. kɔ̀rɔ̀-ta
reach, arrive	se v.
read	kalan v.
reading	kalan n.
reason , cause	sababu n.
recently	
It hasn't been a long time.	A tuma ma mèn.
recreation see amusement	

red, bright	bilen adj.
redden, to get red	bilenman; bilen adj. mod.
His mouth got red.	bilen v.
The kola made my mouth red.	A da bilenna.
	Woro ye n' da bilen.
reduce	
1. in size, quantity, get small	1. dɔ̀gɔ̀ya
His money became less.	A ka wari dɔ̀gɔ̀yara.
2. take something off of (e.g. a price)	2. ka dɔ̀ bɔ̀ (ko/fɛ̀n) la
refuse	ban v.
He refused to go.	A y'i ban a ka taa.
regret	nimisa v.
reinforce, support, uphold	sabati v.
relatives	masaw n.
religion	diina n. (var: diinè)
remain	to v.
remain at ...; to keep doing ...	to ... la
We kept on talking.	An tora baro la.
remain, leave, stay behind	to ... kɔ̀
remainder, rest, leftover	tɔ̀ n.
all the remaining areas of Mali	Mali fan tɔ̀ bèe.
repeat (something)	ka segin (fɛ̀n) kan v.
repair	dila v.
repose, rest	lafinyè v.
reputation	tɔ̀gɔ̀ n.; tanga
reputation medicine	mɔ̀gɔ̀-tanga-fura n.
residence	sigiyɔrɔ̀ n.
resign oneself to, accept	sɔ̀n v.
respect, show respect for	bonya n. and v.
	tanga v.
reputation medicine	mɔ̀gɔ̀-tanga-fura n.
respond see answer	
response see answer	
rest	tɔ̀
The rest is not much.	A tɔ̀ man ca.
rest, remainder	lafinyè v.
I rest (myself).	N' bè n'lafinyè.
He rests his tiredness.	A b'a sɛ̀gɛ̀n lafinyè.
retort, answer back	kan-to v.
He answered you back that Fanta isn't coming.	A y'i kan-to ko Fanta tɛ̀ na.
see also answer back	
return, come back, go back	segin v.
I return home.	N' bè segin so.
I return the money.	N' bè wari segin.
rice	
1. uncooked rice	1. malo n.
2. prepared rice	2. kini n.
3. rice with sauce	3. kininama n.
4. rice dish - Senegalese	4. nzamè n.
5. rice porridge	5. seri n.

rich person	baana n.
ride see run	
rifle	marafa n.
right; righthand	kinin n.
right hand	kininbolo n.
to the right	kininfè; kininbolofè
right, correct	
1. to be correct	1. jo
You are right.	I jo b'a la.
	I jo don.
2. to have spoken the truth	2. tinyè (var: tiyèn, tonya, tunya, cèn)
That's right (i.e. true)	Tinyè b'a la.
You're right.	Tinye b'i fè.
ripen	
1. to mature	1. kògò v.
2. to become ready	2. mò
rise up	wuli v.
road	sira n.
paved road	gudòròn (‘Fr.)
rob, steal	sunya v. (var: sonya, shuwèn)
robber	nson n.
robbery	sunyali n.
role, position	jò-yòrò n.
roof	tufa n.
room see bedroom	
rubber	mana n.
drum with rubber head	mana-dunun n.
ruin	
1. destroy	1. tinyè
The work will be ruined.	Baara bè tinyè.
He ruined my radio.	A ye ne ka rajo tinyè.
2. rot	2. toli
rule, control, master	mara v.
run, ride, drive, flee	boli v.
He runs away.	A bè boli.
He rides horses.	A bè so boli.
She ran (away).	A bolila.
rush	teliya v.

S

sack, bag	bòrò/bòrè n.
100 kg. bag	san-kilo-borè n.
sacrifice	
1. general	1. saraka, saraka bò v.
2. give offering to	2. sòn v.
sale	sugu-la-sigi n.
saliva	daji n.
same, equal	kan adj.
	kanyaman adj. mod.
	kanya v.
sandal	sabara n.

Saturday	sibiri (don) n.
sauce	na n.
say, tell, speak	fɔ̀ v.
	ko v. (irregular)
I said you should stay.	N ko i ka to yan.
What did you say? Pardon?	I ko mun?
What did you say? Pardon?	I ko di?
scabbard, sheath	foron n.
scarf	musɔrɔ̀ (‹Fr.) n.
school	lakɔli (‹Fr.) n.
scratch	siyèn (var: shiyèn)
scream, yell, cry out	kulo v.; pèrèn v.
scythe v.	kan v.
search	nyini v.
see find out	
season	
hot season	tilema-tuma n.
cold season	fonènè n.
period of year in September-October	fobonda n.
rainy season	samiya n.
seat, place to sit	sigi-yɔrɔ̀
seclusion	yɔ̀li-yɔli n.
second	filanan num.
secret	gundo n.
keep a secret	gundo mara
secret knowledge, secret means	dalilu n.
see	
1. general	1. ye
I see you.	N' b'i ye.
2. see everything	2. lasa
3. see (mystical), have vision	3. ka filèli kè
seed	kisè n.
seize	minè v.
select, choose	sukandi v. (var: sugandi)
self, one's self	yèrè-kun n.
self-control	yèrè-minè n.
sell (to someone)	feere (mògò ma)
Of course he'll sell it.	A b'a feere kè!
I'll sell it to you.	N' b'a feere aw ma.
Tomatoes are sold here.	Tamati bè feere yan.
selling	feere n.
Women are selling.	Musow bè feere kè.
send	ci v.
Senegal	Sènègali n.
sentence, punish	nyagin, nyangi v.
September	sètanburu kalo n.
serious, true, wise	sèbè, sɔ̀bè adj.
serve see aid, help	
set	sigi v.
I put it down on the table.	N' y'a sigi tabali kan.
set down	sigi v.
The food is served.	Dumuni sigira.
set a date for	dògò-da (lit. set up market)

settle down, have patience	sabali, sabari v.
seven	wolonwula num.
seventh	wolonwulanan
sew	kala v.
sewing	kalali n.
shadow	
1. of a person	1. ja n.
2. shade, darkness	2. dibi n.
shame	malo v.
	maloya n.; taasi n.
share	ni-yɔ̀rɔ̀ v.
shave	di v.
He shaved (his beard).	A y'a bonbonsi di.
shave the head	kun-di v.
she, he, it	a pro.
sheath, scabbard	foron n.
sheep	saga n.
meat of sheep, mutton	sagasogo n.
sheep selling place	garabali n.
sheet	
1. of paper	1. sèbènfura n.
2. for bed	2. daran (‘Fr.)
shell, shuck	wɔ̀rɔ̀ v. (var: wɔ̀rɔ̀n)
speak X fluently (lit. shell X like a peanut)	X wɔ̀rɔ̀ i ko tiga
shin	gènènkala n.
short, near	surun adj.
	surunman/surun adj. mod.
shorten	surunya v.
shoulder, area of shoulder, wing	kaman n.
shoulder	kamankun n.
show (something) to (someone)	jira ... la v.
I want to show you my house.	N' b'a fè ka n ka so jir'i la.
I'll show you the road.	N' bè sira jir'i la.
shut, close, imprison	da-tugu v.
shut up	dade v.
shut up, keep quiet	makun v.
sibling	
1. elder of same generation (brother, sister, cousin)	1. kɔ̀rɔ̀ n.
2. older brother	2. kɔ̀rɔ̀kè n.
3. older sister	3. kɔ̀rɔ̀muso n.
4. younger sibling, younger member of same generation	4. dɔ̀gɔ̀ n.
5. younger brother	5. dɔ̀gɔ̀kè n.
6. younger sister	6. dɔ̀gɔ̀muso n.
sickness, illness	bana n.
sick person	banabatɔ̀ n. (var: banabagatɔ̀, banabaatɔ̀)
sicken, get sick	bana v.
He got sick.	A banana.

side	
1. direction	1. fan
all sides, all over	fan bèe
2. ribs	2. galaka
3. general side of body or object	3. kèrè
sin, fault	hakè n.
since	kabini conj.
sing	dɔ̀nkili da v.
sister	balimamuso n.
older sister	kòròmuso
younger sister	dɔ̀gɔ̀muso
sit, set, be seated, set down	sigi v.
six	wɔ̀orò num.
sixth	wɔ̀orɔ̀nan
skin, leather	wolo n. (var: golo, gbolo)
skinny, slim, thin	misèn adj.
become thin, skinny	fasa v.
skirt	taafe n.
standard measure of cloth for a woman's wrapped skirt (Fr. pagne)	
skull, head	kunkolo n.; kuncè n.
sky, high, top, heavens	san n.
	sankolo
slate, wooden	walan n.
slave	jɔ̀n n.
slaughter, kill	faga v.
sleep	sunɔ̀gɔ̀ n.
	sunɔ̀gɔ̀ v.
He is sleeping.	A bè sunɔ̀gɔ̀.
slightly, a little	dɔ̀oni quan.
slow	suman adj.
	suman adj. mod.
slow down	sumaya v.
small see little	
small	ni diminutive suffix
little woman	musoni
small child, young girl	denni
small, thin	misèn adj.
	misènman, misèn adj. mod.
	fitini adj. mod.
smoke	
1. tobacco	1. min v.
I don't smoke (cigarettes).	N' tè sigarati min.
2. make smoke, as fire	2. ka sisi bɔ̀
3. to preserve by smoking	3. wusu
snake	sa n.
snake bite medicine	sa-kin-fura n.
snuff	siramugu n.
so and so, what's his name	karisa n.
so that, in order to	yaasa/walasa
soak	nyigin v.

soap	safine n.
soccer	ntɔla n.; ntɔla-tan n.; sen-na-ntɔla-tan n.
soccer field	ntɔla-tan-yɔrɔ n.
society	
1. association	1. tɔn n.
2. Bambara initiation society	2. kɔma n. var. kɔmo
soft, loose	magan adj.
	maganman adj. mod.; magan adj. mod.
soft, easy	nɔgɔn adj.
	nɔgɔn adj. mod.; nɔgɔnman adj. mod.
sole of foot	sun n.
some	dɔ n. quan.
somebody, so and so	karisa n.
someone	dɔ n.
something	dɔ n.
sometimes	tuma dɔw n.
sometimes, from time to time	tuma ni tuma
son	denkɛ n.
song	dɔnkili n.; dɔngili n.
praise song	fasa n.
Sonrai	
1. language	1. kɔrɔbɔrɔkan n.
2. person, people	2. kɔrɔbɔrɔka
sort, kind, type	sugu n.; siya n.
soul	
1. separable soul, image	1. ja n.
2. life force, leaves body in death	2. ni n.
sour	kumun adj.
	kumun adj. mod.
source, base, foundation	ju n.
south	1. kanyaga n.
	2. banbugu n.
	3. worodugu
the south of X	X woro-dugu-yan-fan
speak	fɔ v.; kuma v.
interpret	kuma-sasela v.
speak X fluently (lit. shell X like a peanut)	wɔrɔ X wɔrɔ i ko tiga
species	siya n.
speech, speaking	kuma n.
spend	
1. time	1. kɛ v.
He spent two days.	A ye tile fila kɛ
2. spend day	2. tilen v.
3. spend night	3. si v.
4. spend money	4. ka wari dun v.
spill	bɔn v.
spin (cotton)	parata v.

spine	kòkola n.
spirit, mind, intelligence	hakili n.
spit	kaari n.
	kaari-tu v.
split off	fara v.
spoil, ruin, break, bust	tinyè v.
spool, pulley	dòlè n.; dòra n.; dòla n.
spoon, large; ladle	galama n.
spread out	
1. as to dry or examine grain, leaves	1. yèrèkè v.
2. disburse, distribute	2. jènsèn (var. jènjèn) v.
stand	
stand built in shade for men to sit on	ga (var: gwa, gba) n.
stand, stand up, build, stand erect, straighten up, stop	jò v.
standing-room, place to stand (by ext. role)	jò-yòrò n.
star	dolo n.
start out	fòlò v.
stay, remain, leave (alone)	to v.
I don't stay in the classroom.	n' tè to kalanso kònò.
stay, remain, pass a long time	min v.
steal, rob	sunya v. (var: sonya, shuwèn)
steer (as cow)	misi n.
stick n.	bèrè n.
stop	
1. stop	1. jò v.
The car doesn't stop here.	Mobili tè jò yan.
Stop!	I jò!
2. be held	2. jò
The fair (market) is held every Thursday.	Dògò bè jò alamisa o alamisa.
3. cause to stop	3. lajò
4. cease, put aside	4. dabila
5. stop, cause to be lost	5. latunun
straighten ; go straight	tilen v.
You go straight on this road.	I b'i tilen nin sira fè.
straight, one road	sira kelen n.
strength	fanga n.; barika n. see also power
string	
1. thread, (generic)	1. juru n.
2. homespun thread	2. fale n.
3. musical instrument string	3. jùru n.
stringed instrument (generic)	nkòni n.
strong (see strength, power)	farin adj. see also fierce
	farinman adj. mod.; farin adj. mod.
struggle	kèlè n.
student	kalanden n.
study, learn, read	kalan v.
studying	kalan n.
stump n.	gungurun n.
stupid, ignorant	naloma adj.
stupid fellow	naloma n.

style see manner	
suburbs	lamini n.
succeed (someone)	taa (mògò) kò v.
sugar	sukaro (‘Eng./Fr.) n.
sum	hakè n.
sun, day, noon	tile n.
Sunday	kari (don) n.; dimasi (don) n.
sunny	tilema adj.
sunset	
1. sunset	1. tilebin n.
2. dusk	2. fitiri n.
support	munyu v. see also reinforce
surprise (someone)	bala (mògò) la v.; cun (mògò) kan v.
surround	koori v.
surrounding area	lamini n.
swear v. (as oath)	kali v.; sinyè v.
sweep	furan v.
sweet	timi adj.
	timiman adj. mod.; timi adj. mod.
sweet potato	woso n.
sword see machete	

T

table	tabali n.
tailor	finikalala n.
tailor shop (lit. sewing-place)	kalali-yòrò
take	
1. carry	1. ta v.
Take it!	I k'a ta.
2. go with, bring along	2. taa ni (fen) ye
He took his child.	A taara n'a den ye.
He took his hoe.	A taara n'a ka daba ye.
3. take away from	3. bòsi v.
4. take out or off of, remove from,	4. bò ... la v.
I'll take out some money.	N' bè wari dò bò.
He will reduce the price by 500 francs.	A bè kèmè dòròn de bò a sòngo la.
He will take some off it.	A bè dò bò a la.
I took ten sacks out of the field.	N' ye bòrè tan bò foro la.
5. take, seize	5. minè v.
They took him captive.	U y'a minè.
talisman see amulet	
talk, casual; worthless talk	manamana-kan n.
talking drum	ntami-fò n. ntamani n.
tall	jan adj.
	jamanjan adj. mod. jan adj. mod.
tamarin	ntomi n.
tamarin juice	ntomiji n.

tasty	di adj.
tax, head-tax	duman adj. mod.
taxi	ni-sɔ̀ngɔ̀ n.
taximan	takisi n.
teach, learn	takisitigi n.
I'm learning Bambara.	dege v.
	N' bɛ̀ bamanankan dege.
teacher	kalan v.
team	karamɔ̀gɔ̀
tea	tɔ̀n n.
teapot	atayi n.; dute (‹Fr.)
tear, rip off	barada n.
teeth see tooth	fara v.
tell	
1. report	1. lakali v.
2. say	2. fɔ̀ v.
3. tell about	3. kofɔ̀
tell Y about X	X kofɔ̀ Y ye
tell-tale, troublemaker	nafigi n.
tell tales	nafigiya v.
ten	tan num.
tenth	tannan
unit of ten	bi n.
thirty	bi saba num.
terrace, covered; veranda	waranda (‹Fr.) n.
testicles	kilibara n.; dorobara n.
that	o dem. or pro
those	olu
theft	sunyali n.
these	ninw dem. or pro.
they	u n.
thigh	woro n.
thin	misɛ̀n adj.
	misɛ̀nman adj. mod.; misɛ̀n adj. mod.
thing	fɛ̀n n.
another thing, something else	fɛ̀n wɛ̀rɛ̀ n.
think	miiri v. (var. miri)
thirst	minnɔ̀gɔ̀ n.
this	nin dem. or pro
these	ninw
thought, mind, spirit, intelligence	hakili n.
thread	gaari n.
cotton thread	gese n.
homespun thread	fale n.
three	saba num.
third	sabanan
throat	
1. inside of throat	1. ngɔ̀nɔ̀ n.
2. general term, neck	2. kan n.

throw
  1. general term
  2. throw something at someone or something
Thursday
tie
time
  1. a duration during which events transpire

     a long time
     It's a long time.
  2. a suitable or opportune moment for an activity or event:
     time to go
  3. an instance of an activity or event which can be ennumerated:
     the first time
     seven times
  4. (by extension) in that case:
     In that case, what will we do?
  5. hour
  all the time
  anytime, all the time, everytime
  sometimes
  from time to time
  be a long time
tip, gratuity (price of kolas)
tiredness, poverty
to
  I gave the money to her.
to - dish made from millet flour
tobacco
today
together
toe
tomato
tomorrow
  day after tomorrow
tongue
tools, utensils
tooth
  toothache
top
towards, via, by, with
  He is in back.
  She is in front (out front).
  They are in front of Moussa.
  Ali is nearby (out at the side).
town, city
  big city
  town chief

  1. fili v.
  2. bon v.

alamisa (don) n.
siri v.

  1. tuma n.; wagati n.
     In most dialects, tuma and wagati are synonyms.
     tuma jan
     O ye wagati jan ye sa.
  2. tuma n.; wagati n.

     taatuma
  3. sinyè n. (var. sinya, siyèn, sen, shyèn)
     sinyè fòlò
     sinyè wolonwula
  4. tuma (not wagati)
     O tuma, an bena mun kè.
  5. lèrè ('Fr.)
tuma bèe
tuma o tuma
tuma dòw
tuma ni tuma
mèn v.
woro-sòngò n.
sɛ̀gèn n.
ma p.
  N' ye wari di a ma.
to
sira n.; taba ('Fr.) n.
bi n.
nyògòn
senkòni n.
tamati n.
sini n.
  sininkènè
nèn n.
minan (var: minèn) n.
nyin n.
  nyindimi n.
san n.; sanfòla n.
fè postposition
  A bè ko fè.
  A bè nyefè.
  U bè Musa nyèfè.
  Ali bè kèrèfè.
dugu n.
  duguba n.
  dugutigi n.

trade, commerce	jago n.
	julaya n.
trade language	jago-ke-kan n.
trader	jula n.
trading, marketing	jago n.
tradition	laada n.
train	kurun n.
training center	santiri (<Fr.) n.
transform, change, move	yèlèma v.
transpire	kè v.
travel	taama (var:togoma) v.
What sitting can't help, travel will put an end to.	Sigi tè ko min nye, taama ben'o ban.
traveller, voyager	taamala n.
tree	
1. general term	1. jiri (var: yiri) n.
2. as part of compound, e.g. baobab tree	2. sun sir[illegible]
trip	taali n.
trouble, problems	tòorò n.
true see truth	
truth, right	tinyè n. (var: tiyèn, tonya, tunya, cèn)
You're right.	Tinyè b'i fè.
Tuesday	tarata (don) n.
turn off, branch off, rip off, tear, divide	fara v.
After that, you turn to the left.	O kò, i bè fara i numan fè.
twin	filan n.
two	fila num.
second	filanan
type	sugu n.; cogo n.; si n.; siya n.

U

uncle	
1. father's older brother	1. fa kòròba
2. maternal uncle	2. bènkè
under, near, underneath	kòrò p.
It's under the table.	A bè tabali kòrò.
Moussa is down below.	Musa bè jukòrò.
understand	
1. comprehend	1. faamu (var: faamuya) v.
I understand it.	N' y'a faamu.
I understand it.	N' y'a faamuya.
2. hear	2. mèn
unless	fo conj. (takes subjunctive clause)
unripe	geren adj.
until	fo conj. (takes subjunctive clause)
up to	fo conj.
up to now	halibi
uphold	sabati v.

upset, disturb (lit. move the spirit)	ja wuli v.
urinal	nyègèn
utensils	minan n.

V

vagina	biyè n.
vase	daga n.
vein	jolisira n.
veranda, covered terrace	waranda n.
verse (of Koran)	sòròn n.
very	kosèbè adv.
via	fè postposition see towards
vicious	jugu adj.
	juguman adj. mod.; jugu adj. mod.
	juguya v.
visit	taa bò ... ye v.
Barry went to visit Moussa.	Bari taara bò Musa ye.
voice, language, sound	kan n.
voyage	taali n.; taama n.

W

wagon, cart	wotoro n.
wait	
1. wait	1. kònò v.
2. wait for	2. makònò
I was waiting for you there.	N' tun b'i makònò yen.
wake up, get up in the morning	kunun v.
I woke up.	N' kununna.
Ali awakens me.	Ali bè n'kunun.
Wake up very early	soli v.
walk	yaala v.
walk around	yaalayaala v.
walking, go; wander around	taa yaala v.
wander around, go walking	taa yaala v.
She went out to walk around.	A taara yaala.
want	
1. want, find out, ask of	1. nyini v.
What do you want from Baba?	I bè mun nyini Baba fè?
2. want, like, wish	2. ka ke (mògò/fèn) fè
war	kèlè n.
wash	ko v.
We wash Musa.	An bè Musa ko.
watch	lajè n.
watch out (for), be careful of	kòlòsi v.
He watches out for women.	A b'i kòlòsi musow la.
watch over see care for	
water	ji
water-carrying	ji-ta n.

way see manner	
we	an pro.
	anw (var: annelu, andelu) pro. emph.
weak see poor	
wealth	nafolo n.
wear	don v.
He wore a boubou.	A ye dulɔkiba don.
The boubou is worn on festival day.	Dulɔkiba bè don seli-don.
weave	gese da v.
He can't weave.	A tè se ka gese da.
weaver	gesedala n.
Wednesday	araba (don) n.
weed (lit. under-scratch)	kɔrɔ-shiyèn v.
weeds	binjugu n.
week	dɔgɔkun n.
next week	dɔgɔkun nata n.
last week	dɔgɔkun tɛmènnen n.
well, healthy	kènè adj.
	kènèman adj. mod.
	kènèya v.
west	tilebin n.
the west of X	X tilebin-yan-fan
wet, soak	nyigin v.
what	mun int.
when, if	ni sub. conj.
which	jumèn int.
Which car is at the center?	Mobili jumèn bè santiri la?
whip, stir, mix up	lamaga v.
whiteman	tubabu n.
white, clear, light, clean	jɛ adj.
	jèman adj. mod.; jè adj. mod.
whiten, clean, purify, clarify	jèya v.
He was honest with me.	A y'i jèya n' ye.
become clear to X	jè X ma
who	jɔn int.
wife, woman	muso n.
your wife, (no definite article)	i muso
wildlife, game	sogo n.
wine	capalo n.; dɔlɔ n.; duwèn n.
wing	kaman n.
wise	sɛbè adj.; sɔbè adj.
wisdom, seriousness	sobèya n.
woman	muso n.
preferred woman	nya-na-muso n.
loose woman, prostitute	jalon n.
wood	
1. general	1. jiri
2. firewood	2. dɔgɔ (var: lɔgɔ) n.
wood-chopping	dɔgɔ-ci n.

wooden plank, board	walan n.
woods	
1. bush	1. kungo n.
2. forest, jungle	2. tu n.
woolen cloth	kasa n.
work	baara v.
workshop	baarayòrò n.
world	duniya (var: dinyè, duna, diyèn, jen) n.
die (lit. leave the world)	duniya to
worm	ntumu n.
worry	hami v.
worship	bato n.
	sɔ̀n v.
worthless	kolon adj.
	kolon adj. mod.
worthless person	fugari n.
worthless talk	manamana-kan n.
wound, cut	joli n.
write	sèbèn v.
writing	sèbèn n.; sèbènni n.

XYZ

xylophone	bala n.
xylophone playing	bala-fò n.
yam	ku n.
year	san n.
this year	nyinan n.
every year	san o san
every two years	san fila o san fila
next year	san wèrè
last year	salon
year before last	salonnasini
yell	kulo v.; pèrèn v.
yes	ɔ̀wɔ̀, ɔ̀nhɔ̀n
yesterday	kunun n.
you (sing.)	i pro
	e pro. emph.
you (plural)	aw pro. (var: a, ai)
young	fitini adj. mod.
young see little	